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Internews is pleased to submit the quarterly report for the fourth quarter of 2003, for the USAID-funded Central Asian Media and Information Program. The goal of this three-year program is to aid in the development of independent broadcast and print media in Central Asia, placing a special emphasis on increasing the production and availability of news and information that addresses political, economic, and social issues of relevance to the region.

This report provides an update of activities in support of the following program objectives:

***Objective 1: Support Development of Stronger, More Sustainable Non-State Media***

Media law advocacy and policy reform, including direct legal support, association building, and media law advocacy campaigns;

Skills development through journalism and media management training, including seminars, market research, textbook development, onsite consulting and other support;

Improved access to and use of modern information technologies, including computerized newsroom software, Internet connectivity, and Internet policy advocacy.

***Objective 2: Engage Citizens in the Democratic Process through Increased Availability of Useful and Credible Information***

Production funds designed to stimulate public interest programming on topics such as civil society, economic reform, the environment, and health, coupled with broader community outreach initiatives;

Thematic journalism training to improve journalists' coverage of social, political, and economic topics; and,

Co-productions that serve as practical training tools and venues for public interest journalism.

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## ***General***

### **Kazakhstan**

#### ***Law on Mass Media***

On December 25, the lower chamber of the Kazakhstani Parliament approved the government's draft law "on mass media." The draft is now being sent to the upper chamber of parliament and it is expected that it will be approved in the beginning of February and then sent to the President for ratification.

The law clearly limits the freedom of the mass media business in the country, and the rights of journalists; it creates greater responsibility of mass media and journalists before the authorities and before the law.

The new law also gives more opportunities to the Ministry of Information to regulate mass media's activities. It gives this Ministry the right to give licenses for TV and radio, as well as the right to refuse registration to mass media for various reasons.

Internews Kazakhstan, together with other public organizations was extremely active in the discussions of the draft. Along with Adil Soz and NAT/Kazakhstan, Internews was invited to participate in the parliamentary working group preparing the draft of the law "on mass media." The group was composed of 44 participants – 19 parliamentary deputies, nine government officials and three officials from the parliamentary apparatus.

Together with NAT/Kazakhstan and Adil Soz, Internews participated in all the public hearings, round tables in the sessions of the parliamentary working group. Internews made five trips to Astana to take part in hearings with the government, offering commentary and suggestions to improve the law on mass media, using the Kazakhstani press, TV and radio for this purpose. Each week, several interviews with Oleg Katsiev, Sergey Vlasenko and Nurzhan Mukhamedjanova were published in the press and every week, Oleg Katsiev took part in the talk show *Pressa* on Channel 31, which airs every Saturday evening on prime time in all the main cities of Kazakhstan.

Some of Internews' suggestions to the law were accepted by the parliament and the government; however they were not key points. On the whole, the draft of the law remains repressive and does not allow for greater freedom for journalists to work or for owners or editors of mass media.

As expected, the government draft was passed. It is clear that the Ministry of Information made a very serious effort to gather the support it needs. Representatives from the Ministry visited several cities including Ust-Kamenogorsk, Karaganda, and Shymkent where they held meetings with mass media controlled by the authorities and essentially coerced them to support the draft. In addition, they gathered signatures of the heads of mass media and representatives of the Kazakh intelligentsia, who expressed their support of the Ministry.

Internews understands that these actions were taken in order to formally show public support for the authorities, so as to counter the disagreement with the law on mass media that was demonstrated by Internews, Adil Soz and other public organizations. The pro-government newspapers, such as the *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, published materials in support of the law on mass media.

The administrative resources of the authorities were too strong for Internews to challenge. However, we consider it a success that during the months of discussion on the law on mass media, it was a hot issue that received central coverage in local newspapers and on TV and radio broadcasts. Also, a great number of international organizations became involved in the discussions of the draft, including OSCE, Article 19, Reporters without Borders, and International Press Institute, among others. Furthermore, Internews received support for criticism of the draft from organizations which are close to the media holding of Dariga Nazarbayeva, daughter of the Kazakh president. The Congress of Journalists, The Union of Journalists, and the National Press club all sharply criticized various articles of the draft.

The invitation of Internews, Adil Soz and NAT/Kazakhstan to the parliamentary working group was an important event attesting to the authorities' recognition that the voices of these organizations cannot be dismissed by either the parliament, or by the government. However, it appeared that by including these groups, the government and Parliament hoped to create the impression that the public was being involved in a democratic process of public discussion. This would give them the opportunity to declare that the new law was created with the help of such organizations like Internews.

However, we did not allow this to happen. Internews earned its reputation as a fair, honest and principled organization over the course of 10 years in Kazakhstan, and Internews was not prepared to sacrifice its good name towards endorsing this law. Therefore, Internews, along with Adil Soz, publicly walked out of the parliamentary working group.

On December 9, Internews announced its plans to exit the working group at a special press conference -- the decision was reported in all of the largest mass media of the country. As a result, Internews brought attention to the public that the Parliament was going to pass a law that is not in the best interest of the public or the journalists of Kazakhstan.

#### *State Commission on Frequencies*

On December 22, in Astana the Government Commission on the Distribution of Frequencies held a session in which Internews Kazakhstan was represented by Nurzhan Mukhamedjanova. It is notable that several days before the session, the government increased the membership of the commission to nine people; practically all of them are representatives of the government or the Parliament. Thus, the share of public organizations in the government commission has been further reduced. For the first time in the last seven years, the Commission held a competition for assignments for frequencies in Almaty, Frequencies for large and important cities such as Pavlodar, Shymkent, Atyrau and Karaganda were also put forward. We know that in such cases, these frequencies are often assigned by the authorities prior to tender, and that the competition is a formality. This is what happened in this case, with strong government support for one applicant, the broadcast company AS-TV.

AS-TV won frequency licenses in four cities – Almaty, Atyrau, Pavlodar and Shymkent. It is interesting that AS-TV formally competed against the project of NTV-Kazakhstan, which is part of the KazMunaiGaz Company (which has one of the sons-in-law of the president, Timur Kulibaev, behind it). Formally having lost the competition, KazMunaiGaz, nevertheless won, when it soon became known that it bought out the company AS-TV.

Thus, there emerges a new player in the Kazakhstani media market – Timur Kulibaev. Two years ago, he had tried to gain a foothold in the market, likewise through NTV. At that time, Rahat Aliev and Dariga Nazarbayeva prevented it, having organized a provocation against Radio NS, which Kulibaev's media holding owns. The reasons for Kulibaev's success in this instance are not immediately apparent.

Internal conflicts within the presidential family and the appearance of an alternative media magnate (competing with the media of Dariga Nazarbayeva and Rahat Aliev) paradoxically can work in the interest of Internews' partners –non-governmental TV stations without affiliation to companies owned by those in power.

For NTV Kazakhstan/KazMunaiGaz to create a high-grade national TV network, it is not enough to only broadcast in Astana, and in four new cities. For the creation of a network of new owners, AS-TV will need to engage in negotiations with small regional broadcasters, among which are many of our partners. If we speak of business interests, this could potentially be a profitable enterprise for our stations.

In general, the creation of alternatives in the mass media market, the appearance of a large competitor to Dariga Nazarbayeva's holding, should only benefit the market.

#### *Sentencing of Ermurat Bapi*

On November 17, the Medeo Regional Court in Almaty sentenced Ermurat Bapi, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper *SolDat* to one year of imprisonment, a fine in the amount of 150\$US, and payment of overdue taxes, roughly in the amount of 66,500 dollars, as well as an embargo on his engagement in publishing for five years.

This is undoubtedly a demonstration of the authorities' disapproval of the anti-Nazarbayev character of this opposition newspaper. The authorities found a legitimate way to punish the editor-in-chief. The charge: the paper did not conduct proper financial reporting and tax codes were systematically violated.

#### *Amendments to the Law on Advertising*

On November 19, the parliament (conciliatory commission of Mazhilis and Senate) approved an amendment to the law on advertising, which forbids all advertising of alcoholic beverages beginning January 1, 2004. Tobacco and cigarettes were forbidden even earlier (from October 1, 2003). Despite the obvious public concerns that these new laws address, private broadcasters will suffer financial losses because of the loss of advertising revenue from vodka, beer and cigarette companies.

#### *Navigator Website Blocked*

In December, the Internet Newspaper *Navigator* (Director Yuri Minzinov) again announced that the secret services of Kazakhstan are blocking access to the site [www.navigator.kz](http://www.navigator.kz), using special means to delay loading of their website. The Kazakhstan security services denied the claim calling Minzinov's declaration a provocation.

#### *Resumption of Broadcasts*

In November, Radio Tandem in Aktyubinsk resumed broadcast after a three month hiatus.

### *Subtitling into Kazakh Language Fulfills Language Laws*

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, at the session of the parliamentary working group, the Vice-Minister of Information, Ardak Dosan announced that programs and films translated with subtitles into Kazakh language are considered in observance of the language law requirements which require a no less than 50% of general broadcasts be in the Kazakh language. Earlier, the Ministry announced that subtitled programs did fulfill the language requirement.

### *Benefits for mass media are extended*

In December, the Minister of Economics announced in the press the decision of the president to prolong benefits freeing mass media of VAT for another year, until January 1, 2005.

### *Internews Network in Kazakhstan Tax Inspection 2004*

The Taxation Committee of the Ministry of Finance carried out an audit of our payments of social and income taxes by the representative office of Internews Network in Kazakhstan.

The auditing commission judged that Internews had a series of violations in the payment of taxes and issued a penalty all in the total amount of nearly 900\$US. Internews considers that these were indeed not violations, that all was accounted for based on the legislation as well as the bilateral agreement between the governments of the US and Kazakhstan.

Internews responded with an official letter of protest to the Ministry of Finance and received a response on December 23, 2003, in which the Chairman of the Taxation Committee, Isakov agreed with Internews' protest and has annulled the tax commissions findings. For Internews this is a big victory, defending our right to tax privileges according to Kazakhstan's legislation.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Resolution at the European Parliament on Kyrgyzstan*

On Oct. 23, the European Parliament in Strasbourg adopted a joint resolution on Central Asia. The resolution expressed concerns over freedom of the press in Kyrgyzstan and called on the government of Kyrgyzstan to respect the principles of freedom of speech and assembly and declare a moratorium on arbitrary civil suits taken out by government officials against journalists and independent media. It also called on the European Commission to develop and strengthen the TACIS democracy programs for Central Asian countries, with a view, in particular, to promote media freedoms and greater independence of the judiciary.

On Oct. 29, the Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan reacted to the resolution with a statement claiming that the European parliament gave a biased, one-sided and inaccurate picture and that the strong criticism towards Kyrgyzstan about the human rights situation in the country was incorrect and tendentious. They noted that the Kyrgyz government had taken all necessary measures to promote democracy, to secure rights and freedoms, and to strengthen the rule of law and they expect support from the international community.

The statement claims that existing legislation in Kyrgyzstan does not contradict international norms and that it guarantees all citizens the right to gather and express their views freely and that the government does not intend to restrict those freedoms. In addition, Kyrgyz leadership cannot

comply with a request by the European parliament "to declare a moratorium on arbitrary civil suits taken out by government officials against journalists and independent media outlets." The statement continued to claim that in Kyrgyzstan's 12 years of independence, all the necessary conditions to resolve issues by civilized and democratic means, including through court proceedings, have been formed and the government cannot abide by criticisms about persecution of opposition members, journalists, human rights defenders and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

#### *Revamping of Issyk-Kul Regional State TV*

In October, the former Issyk-Kul regional branch of State TV was renamed Ekho-TV and held an opening ceremony in Karakol. Thanks to financial support from the regional administration, the station recently built a studio and bought two million soms (\$48,000) worth of equipment. It is planning to broadcast daily and to install several transmitters to cover neighboring regions.

#### *Opening of TV Space in Osh*

In November, a new TV company, TV Space opened in Osh. The staff consists of three employees who were previously working for the station Pyramida-Osh. The station is renting a channel and broadcasting four hours a day in Osh and Jalal-Abad. At the moment it is only retransmitting various entertainment programs, but it is planning to start producing its own information programs in the near future.

#### *Newspaper Uchkun*

A new Kyrgyz language newspaper, *Uchkun* appeared in Bishkek. The editor-in-chief is Nurgazy Anarkulov, former vice editor-in-chief of the Kyrgyz newspaper *Aalam*. According to Anarkulov, the newspaper will publish information about people, their problems and how they live. The 16-page newspaper is issued once a week with a distribution of 5,000 copies. It is planning to become a daily newspaper.

#### *Opening of Independent Printing Press*

On Nov. 14 the first independently owned printing press opened in Bishkek. USG representatives Elizabeth Jones and Lorne Craner were present for the inauguration of the press, which was funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor and is administered by the US-based organization Freedom House. The Open Society Institute and the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway provided additional support.

The printing press is operated by the Media Support Center Foundation, a local non-profit organization with a Board of Directors chaired by U.S. Senator John McCain and including former U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Askar Aitmatov, and other distinguished individuals from the U.S., Central Asia, and Europe.

Independent newspapers have welcomed the opening of the press, which is breaking the monopoly of the state-owned press Uchkun. Uchkun has been accused of pressuring newspapers and has refused several times to print the main Kyrgyz opposition newspaper *Moya Stolitsa*.

However, in December, the press faced its first difficulties, stemming from criticism by its clientele. Victor Zapolsky, editor of the private weekly newspaper *Delo* ? , announced that he



was resigning from the board of directors and that he would move his business back to the state-owned printing press, Uchkun. He stated his decision in an open letter addressed to the printing press' board chairman and to US Senator John McCain, which he published in his newspaper's Dec. 10th issue. The letter, entitled "The Role of a Faceless Bystander is Not for Me," accused the press of poor management and sub-standard printing.

In the letter, Zapolsky claimed he was told that prices would be half of those of Uchkun, yet when he received his bill, they were significantly higher. Freedom House Project Manager Mike Stone dismissed the accusations insisting that he had only quoted one price to Zapolsky which was similar to Uchkun's prices.

Despite the difficulties, Aleksander Kim, editor-in-chief of the opposition newspaper *MSN*, said that he will continue to work with the new press, noting that Uchkun had refused to print his paper for several months in 2002. Kim said the press' significance lies not in its price structure, but in its mere existence. In addition, he claims that the new press has fundamentally changed Kyrgyzstan's media situation because private newspapers are no longer subject to the state-owned press' censorship.

### *"Altyn Kalem" Festival*

On Nov. 6, The Day of Information and Print of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Akayev held the yearly ceremony "Altyn Kalem" ("Golden Feather") for journalists and media outlets. Thirty one prizes totaling \$6,000 were awarded for "objective coverage of socio-economic development in the republic in the Year of Kyrgyz Statehood." The majority of the awards were presented to government or pro-government news outlets and journalists. Among the journalists receiving the highest prize (20,000 Kyrgyz soms, about \$475) was the chief editor of the Bishkek independent TV station Pyramida, Elina Cherniavskaya. Cherniavskaya has worked at the station for less than a year and is reputed to be close with the wife of the Kyrgyz president – which has been interpreted as a possible indication of a presidential aspirant's influence over the TV station.

Speaking before mass media representatives, President Askar Akayev noted that the country underwent difficult challenges to freedom of speech. He recalled the days in which Soviet journalism existed under strict party control, in which a range of issues for journalists were "off limits," which contrasts with the present times, which, the President claims, challenges journalists with the question of how to report in a time in which nothing is "off limits."

Akayev said that Kyrgyzstan needs high-quality journalism that addresses the needs and problems of the country's citizens. He claimed that in spite of reproaches addressed in the direction of the development of journalism in the country, from those who are far from Kyrgyzstan's reality, that only those for whom journalists are carrying out their generous and difficult mission have a right to judge. Akayev stressed that what is needed in Kyrgyzstan is a "true" journalism that strives to enlist the support of the society, and that works for the country, adheres to national and state interests, and promotes public accord.

### *President's Address to Journalists*

On Dec. 30, in a live broadcast on State TV, President Akayev asked Kyrgyz journalists to show responsibility and patriotism, promising in return to protect press freedoms in the country. "Democracy in our young country is still immature, society is not yet democratic, the gap between freedom and responsibility is too big and dangerous, and the young society could perish," declared the President. The President claims that journalists have the full right to criticize

the authorities; however they should note positive achievements and support Kyrgyzstan's efforts to transition to a democratic state.

### *Media Council*

On Oct. 15, the Media Council created by the government in September held its first meeting. The nine members of the Council discussed issues of the Council functions and activities such as the creation of a secretariat, formation of an expert committee, and determining the first activities of the Council. The results of a survey the Council conducted among Kyrgyz showed three priorities for the Council: the improvement of mass media's conditions of existence improvement of the legislative basis for mass media and raising journalists' qualifications. During the meeting, filmmaker Aktan Abdykalykov was chosen to head the Council.

### *Decriminalization of Libel in Kyrgyzstan*

On Nov. 6, the Kyrgyz Day of Information and Print, the recently created Media Council wrote an appeal to President Akayev to decriminalize libel. An initiative by the president to do so two years earlier was rejected by the parliament. The Council also called for the introduction of a state duty to be paid by the plaintiff in court cases against mass media.

In December, President Askar Akayev brought a bill for discussion before Kyrgyzstan's parliament on decriminalizing libel. The bill consists of two parts: one abolishing criminal charges for libel and personal insult (current law dictates that a person convicted of libel in court can be imprisoned for three years) and another introducing a 5% state duty to be paid by the plaintiff before a suit on protection of honor, dignity and business reputation of persons can be considered by the courts.

The two changes were rejected by the parliament in 1997 and 2001, and could bring tremendous support to media by drastically reducing the number of lawsuits brought against them and reducing the sums of damages claimed. 2003 has shown a tendency of government figures using libel cases to bankrupt newspapers that have published critical materials on their performance. In 2003 government officials brought to court over a dozen libel suits, almost three times more than in 2000.

### *New Legislation on Foreign Coverage of Kyrgyz Elections*

On Dec. 9, within the framework of the legal project to introduce changes to the Election Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, parliamentary deputies voted in an amendment forbidding foreign mass media distributed in Kyrgyzstan to participate in election campaigns. Russian newspapers claimed that their rights were being violated, however, the Kyrgyz Central Electoral Commission made it clear that the prohibition is not about censoring political coverage in Kyrgyzstan claiming that most countries have some version of a ban on foreign mass media taking part in political campaigning.

### *Opening of Internet Centers*

Kyrgyz vice Prime Minister Kybanychbek Jumaliev announced that Internet public access centers will be open in post-offices all over the country in order to provide citizens access to electronic government, education and trade. The Kyrgyz government has allocated five million soms (\$115,000) towards this project.

## Tajikistan

### *Independent Tajik Newspapers under Pressure*

In 2003 there were several signs of an improvement of freedom of speech in Tajikistan particularly marked by the appearance of the newspapers *Nerui Sukhan* and *Ruzi Nav*. However, by the end of November, the state publishing house Sharqi Ozod, refused to publish *Ruzi Nav*, following the publication of several critical articles, ranging from an account of the Supreme Soviet session in Khujand in November 1992, to articles on corruption in the cotton industry. Initially the publishing house refused to give an explanation, but later it became clear that the tax inspectorate had intervened and forbade further publication of the paper.

In December, Sharqi Ozod, which publishes most of Tajikistan's newspapers, raised their fees by some 100%. This had a critical effect on *Nerui Sukhan*, which suspended its publication. Also, the tax inspectorate initiated an investigation of another of the most outspoken Tajik newspapers, *Ruzi Nav*, which Sharqi Ozod refused to publish.

*Ruzi Nav*'s publication was only suspended for two weeks when it found another publishing house. Furthermore, the most recent issues of the newspaper have reached a hitherto unsurpassed level of criticism of the president. Some observers suspect that the paper has ties to oppositional forces based in Kulab, hostile to the current president and his administration.

### *TajANESMI*

In November, the media association TajANESMI re-registered, and is now headed by Muso Asozoda, the recently appointed deputy chair of the media licensing commission and a prominent member of the Popular Democratic Party presidential party. The activation of TajANESMI suggests an attempt by the government to exert greater control over independent media by presenting a rival organization to NANSMIT (The National Association of Independent Mass Media).

TajANESMI was charged with giving approvals and recommendations for all media outlets applying for licenses. With the addition of TajANESMI, the Tajik government now has four bodies with overlapping memberships overseeing the functions of broadcast media: the Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting, the Licensing Commission, the TV and Radio Inspectorate and TajANESMI.

### *Internews Approached by Licensing Committee*

During December, there was a growing tendency within the Tajik government to exert greater control over independent media, particularly affecting many Internews' partner TV stations, with greater requirements that all programs broadcast are produced by units possessing production licenses. Internews, as well, has been approached by members of the licensing committee who demand that Internews also apply for a license. The licensing procedure has created yet another mechanism to control the content of broadcasts, to further enrich the committee and to weaken the voices of independent media and production companies in Tajikistan.

### *Success Story: Internet Connectivity for Tajikistani TV Stations*

Internews' project using supplementary funding from USAID to connect TV-stations to the Internet has generally been successful. At the end of December, TV Ghulakandoz outside Khujand managed to get support from their founders to pay some USD7000 for a one year permanent internet connection. This is the single largest investment ever done by an already existing and functioning independent TV-station in Tajikistan and is a direct result of the Internet connectivity project.

### *Forced Subscriptions to Tajik Newspapers*

In November, the Tajik government initiated a country-wide campaign to force middle- and high-ranking civil servants to subscribe to governmental newspapers and publications. The move is undoubtedly aimed at supporting state media. State servants have received letters listing state publications from children's journals to parliamentary newsletters. No private media are listed. In addition, the question remains how civil servants will be able to afford to subscribe to these publications, given that they receive low salaries.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Nasaf Newspaper Suspended*

On Oct. 15, the weekly newspaper *Nasaf* from Karshi (Kashkadarya Oblast) suspended operations due to a lack of funding, according to the paper's editor-in-chief Komila Karomova. *Nasaf* has been publishing since 2000 and was an official publication of the Karshi mayor's office. According to Olim Toshev, a staff member of the paper, the paper was in actuality suspended because of the critical materials it had begun to publish. For example, on Oct. 10, the paper published two of Toshev's articles, one dealing with the violations of the rights of gas consumers, and the second tackled the social causes behind the spread of tuberculosis in the region.

### *Journalist's Access to Courtroom Proceedings Denied*

On Oct. 15, Khusniddin Kutbiddinov, a reporter with Radio Liberty, was barred from attending an open hearing for members of the opposition party Erk in Tashkent's Mirzo-Ulugbek Court. The judge, Aliya Tashmatova, said she did not believe that Kutbiddinov was a reporter with an American radio service. The judge told the reporter, "Your ID is in English. Bring an interpreter here so he can translate it for me." When the journalist referred to Uzbek legislation allowing journalists to attend open court hearings, the judge demanded that he leave the building. Her excuse was that he was keeping her from working.

### *Program Censored*

A program called *Expromptu* was not allowed to air after the editor-in-chief of TV-4 of the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company, reviewed the material.

The program, scheduled to air on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and prepared by journalist Elmira Khasanova, dealt with issues relating to makhallas, (Uzbek local self-governance bodies) and contained critical remarks made by the chairman of a makhalla, a public opinion poll on the performance of those authorities, and mention of a report prepared by Human Rights Watch, which dealt with human rights violations by makhallas. When Khasanova reminded Tatyana Polonskaya, the editor-in-

chief, that Uzbek legislation prohibits censorship, the editor refused to accept responsibility for approving the airing of the program.

In the past, Khasanova had participated in rallies protesting censorship on State-TV in the summer of 2003. As a consequence, TV-4 shut down her talk show. Later, she was allowed to launch a show called *Expromptu* but only on the condition that it air “apolitical” programming.

#### *Bans on Granting Interviews to Journalists*

On Nov. 1, 2003, at a meeting of makhalla committees at the Margilan City Hokimiyat, Agzamkhon Akramov, Hokim of Margilan and Parliamentary Deputy said, “International journalists infest Uzbekistan... We must be cautious when talking to them. On no condition should you provide them with any information or we may bring shame on ourselves in the eyes of the whole world.” This meeting was attended by Matluba Azamatova, a journalist with BBC in Ferghana, who reported this to Internews.

#### *Lost in Translation*

In November, at the press conference of US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, at the President Palace Hotel in Samarkand, Tulkin Karaev, correspondent with the Voice of America, asked a question about child labor in Uzbekistan’s cotton fields.

The question was interrupted by Elyor Ganiyev, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and Chairman of the Agency for External Economic Relations, who made the translator say that the children work at their own free will. After the incident, the press conference was immediately dismissed.

#### *Bans on Reporting about Cotton*

Ikhtyor Batirov, Chief Editor of the TV and Radio Company of Navoi Province, forbade journalists to produce any critical content, including pieces on non-payment of salaries, pensions and dues for cotton. According to Batirov, his decision is based on a verbal instruction from the Hokim of Navoi Province. Batirov is overseeing news content personally to make sure his order is carried out.

#### *Bans on Press Coverage of Official Visit*

On Nov. 20, Tashiharu Ketamura, Deputy Minister of Finance of Japan, visited the city of Navoi, Uzbekistan, to give a talk called, “Economic Development during Political Transition.” The talk was prepared for students of a university of economy or a technical university. However, as there are no such universities in Navoi, local officials temporarily renamed the local College of Art and Culture as a “College of Economy and Technology.” Dustmurad Khalikulov, Deputy Hokim of Navoi Province, forbade press coverage of Ketamura’s visit and threatened the heads of press outlets should they disobey him.

#### *Violence against Journalists*

On Nov. 4, there was a large demonstration at the Chorsu bazaar in Namangan, which was violently broken up by the police. A Lieutenant Karabayev tore a microphone and a minidisk recorder out of the hands of the BBC correspondent.

On Nov. 9, after the largest bazaar in Bukhara was closed at the request of local authorities, entrepreneurs and customers organized a protest. Obid Shabanov, correspondent with Deutsche Welle, wanted to interview the bazaar's administration, but was prevented by the police, who also dispersed the crowd protesting against the bazaar's closure.

Galima Bukharbaeva, director of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) in Uzbekistan, was attacked and threatened by representatives of the Uzbek Interior Ministry and the Tashkent city interior affairs department during a picket organized by Uzbek human rights activists near the Uzbek State Television. The incident occurred when Bukharbaeva defended human rights activist Yelena Uralyeva, who had been hit by a policeman. Several police officers manhandled Bukharbaeva and told her she would be arrested and a criminal case would be opened against her. After that, Ilya Pygai, deputy head of the terrorism prevention department of the Uzbek Interior Ministry, and his colleague Tursunbai Rakhmatullayev, began to accuse Bukharbaeva of provocation. Bukharbaeva believes these threats are serious because "many journalists have been beaten and even convicted over the past few months."

On Nov. 10, policeman Arif Sulaymanov tricked journalist Olim Toshev into going to a mental institution in Kashkadarya province where Toshev was subjected to compulsory treatment, including two injections. Later, Zafar Makhmudov, head of one of the clinic's departments, examined Toshev and found him absolutely of sound mind. He expressed surprise that the policeman had brought a healthy person to his clinic. The next day, Toshev was allowed to go home. The clinic's nurses apologized to Toshev saying that they had done everything at the behest of those from "above".

### *Refusals to Give Accreditation*

On Nov. 27, Obid Shabanov, correspondent with Deutsche Welle, and Ilkhom Safarov, correspondent with UZA, were refused accreditation to cover the anniversary celebrations in Bukhara of ancient religious prophets Abdukhaliq Gijduvani and Bakhaudhin Nakshbandi. The instruction to refuse them accreditation was given by the Hokimiyat of Bukhara Province and the National Security Service. One theory as to why Safarov was denied accreditation is because of his article about prostitution in Bukhara.

### *Blocking Access to Information*

Uzbek Internet providers ban access to certain websites by redirecting Internet users to other websites, usually to MSN Search. Sometimes if an Internet user wants to visit a critical article about Uzbekistan on a certain website, he/she is redirected to the website's homepage. The old techniques of banning websites – for instance when a page with a note "Forbidden" or "Cannot Find Page" opens instead of a website – are still being used.

Since Oct. 26, there have been problems in the Fergana Valley accessing the frequencies of the Uzbek services of Radio Liberty, BBC, and Voice of America. Instead of the receiving informational content, listeners hear noises or songs that repeat at short intervals. Human rights activists believe that this is a deliberate attempt by the government to stifle foreign mass media which have begun transmitting compromising information about the president's daughter Gulnara Karimova and her business enterprises.

On Nov. 19, Kuutbay Eseybayev, Chief of the Department of Monitoring Mass Media in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, refused to provide freelance journalist Aynur Kenenbayeva with any information on violations of journalists' rights in the republic. Eseybayev said he had no

information of any violations, but even if he did, he would not give it out. He did not explain why. This is not the only instance of this sort. Public officials in Uzbekistan routinely refuse to provide mass media with information in the public interest.

*Success Story: GIPI Active in Drafting New Uzbek E-Legislation*

In December, the Uzbek Parliament *Oliy Majlis* convened for its scheduled sessions. During the session, parliament passed draft laws on e-document circulation, e-signature and e-commerce. The first two draft laws were published in the press. Shaukat Valitov, GIPI Specialist, who sat in the working group of the *Oliy Majlis* charged with drafting the laws, took an active part in drafting and elaborating them.

***Program Activities in Support of Objective One (Support development of stronger, more sustainable non-state media)***

**Component 1.1 Media Law Advocacy and Policy Reform**

**Kazakhstan**

In the fourth quarter of 2003, Internews lawyer Sergey Vlasenko continued to give legal consultations to journalists and to mass media:

On Oct. 1, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to TDK TV (Uralsk) regarding the draft of the media law.

On Oct. 1, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for Otyrar TV (Shymkent) on issues of advertising for alcoholic beverages.

On Oct. 1, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for Alau TV (Kostanai) on labor legislation.

On Oct. 1, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for ERA TV (Astana) on issues of restrictions on tobacco advertising.

On Oct. 8, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for M. Markova, a research fellow of Washington University (USA) on the issues of Internet regulation in Kazakhstan.

On Oct. 10, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for D. Farrow, executive director of *Caspian Business News*, (UK) on the issues of media regulation in Kazakhstan.

On Oct. 7, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for MIG TV (Talgar) on radio frequency regulation issues; on Oct. 9, on the rights of mass media during the elections for Maslikhats (local representative bodies); on Oct. 22, on the purchase of equipment; and on Oct. 29, on retransmission of Russian broadcasts.

On Oct. 14-15, Vlasenko provided consultation to SKTV (Schuchinsk) on licensing issues.

On Oct. 14, Vlasenko provided consultation for Umrillo Melikov, legal expert at Internews Tajikistan on court arbitration.

On Oct. 23, Vlasenko provided consultation and collected information for Andrei Richter, the director of the Institute of Informational Legislation (Moscow) regarding Kazakhstan's film legislation.

On Oct. 24, Vlasenko provided consultation to TVK 6 (Semipalatinsk) on the issue of protecting the business reputation of the station. On Oct. 30, Vlasenko provided consultation to the station on licensing issues.

On Oct. 27, Vlasenko collected information for Styx advertising agency on the draft of the media law.

On Oct. 28, Vlasenko provided consultation for Channel 43 (Temirtau) on labor legislation issues.

On Oct. 28, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for Lada TV (Atyrau) on videotaping in public places.

On Oct. 30, Vlasenko provided legal consultation for Radio 7 (Semipalatinsk) on labor legislation issues.

On Nov. 5, Vlasenko provided consultations for Channel 31 on issues of alcohol advertising as well as the use of trademarks.

On Nov. 4, 12, 17-18, Vlasenko provided consultations for MIG TV station on licensing issues.

On Nov. 6, Vlasenko provided consultations for UMAX radio station regarding its licensing agreement with Kazakh Authors Society, Almaty.

On Nov. 6 – 7, Vlasenko provided consultations for SKTV (Schuchinsk) on licensing issues, and on their tax audit.

On Nov. 7, Vlasenko provided consultations for *Aigak* newspaper (Shymkent) regarding media advertisement.

On Nov. 20 Vlasenko provide consultations for ERA TV (Astana) on issues of media taxation.

On Nov. 20, Vlasenko provided consultation for National Press Club (Almaty) on issues of tenders for terrestrial broadcasting.

On Nov. 25, Vlasenko provided consultations for Otyrar TV (Shymkent) on issues of alcohol advertising and on the draft of the new media law.

On Nov. 27, Vlasenko provided consultations for Kazakhstan – 1 TV channel (Almaty) on the draft of media law.

On Nov. 28, Vlasenko provided consultations for *Vecherniy Pavlodar* on issues of tobacco and alcohol advertisement in the media.

On Dec. 2, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for ERA TV (Astana) on issues of alcohol advertising.



On Dec. 3, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for Channel 43 (Temirtau) on issues of alcohol advertising.

On Dec. 3, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for Channel 31 (Karaganda) on construction contracting.

On Dec. 3 – 4, Vlasenko provided legal consultations to journalist Olivia Alison on issues of journalist accreditation in Kazakhstan, and on Dec. 18, 24, 25 consultations on the new media law.

On Dec. 4, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for *Arba* newspaper (Aktobe) on issues of labor legislation.

On Dec. 4, 5, Vlasenko provided legal consultations to *Navigator* Internet Journal (Almaty) on issues relating to the alleged blocking of access to [www.navi.kz](http://www.navi.kz) web site.

On Dec. 5, Vlasenko provided legal consultations to MIG TV (Talgat) on issues of licensing.

On Dec. 9, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for radio UMAX (Shymkent) on issues of advertising legislation.

On Dec. 9, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to Channel 43 (Temirtau) on issues of licensing of Russian TV programs.

On Dec. 10, Vlasenko provided legal consultations to Channel 31 (Almaty) regarding legislation on the distribution of programming of an erotic and pornographic nature.

On Dec. 10, Vlasenko provided legal consultations for TV-Line TV and radio station (Petrovsk), on issues of alcohol and tobacco advertising.

On Dec. 11, Vlasenko provided legal consultations related to publications in *Talgat* newspaper of information concerning activities of MIG TV station.

On Dec. 19, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to Said Gaziev, International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), on issues concerning the draft of media law.

On Dec. 19, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to TVK 6 TV (Semipalatinsk), on advertising legislation.

On Dec. 19, Vlasenko provided legal consultation to ALVA – TV (Zhyrnyak) on issues concerning the registration of legal entities with Justice Authorities.

### *Publications*

The following documents were prepared, published and disseminated among Internews partners and parties interested in the media legislation landscape in Kazakhstan:

- Resolution # 1180 of Nov. 25, 2003, “on the Ministry of Information of Republic of Kazakhstan;”

- Resolution # 724 of July 22, 2003, “on Informatization and Communication Agency of Republic of Kazakhstan;”
- Resolution # 562 of May 11, 1999, “on the ratification of the agreement on the creation of favorable conditions for broadcasting of TV and radio programs over territories of CIS member states on intensification of economic and humanitarian integration of March 29, 1996; and the agreement between Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan of Nov. 25, 1996 on procedures and conditions of broadcasting of Russian TV and radio programs over territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan and programs of Kazakhstani broadcasting companies over territory of Russian Federation;”
- Resolution # 1238 of Dec. 5, 2003, “on the committee on tenders for terrestrial broadcasting in the Republic of Kazakhstan.”

In addition, Internews distributed information regarding the adoption of the normative act of the Republic of Kazakhstan #500 – II of Nov. 29, 2003, “on amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning issues of taxation,” in accordance with which tax exemptions are extended until June 1, 2004.

#### *Lectures/Interviews*

On Oct. 3, Vlasenko made a presentation at Internews’ seminar on TV journalism on media legislation in Kazakhstan

On Oct. 13, Vlasenko gave a presentation about media legislation in Kazakhstan for Internews’ seminar on radio journalism.

On Nov. 21, Vlasenko gave an interview to Olivia Allison from [www.eurasianet.org](http://www.eurasianet.org) on the draft of the new media law.

On Nov. 27 – 28, Vlasenko was a participant at the round table “Almaty 10+: Civic society, free press and ethics” at Al-Farabi Kazakh National State University, Almaty.

On Dec. 1, Internews lawyer Sergey Vlasenko participated in the national public debates on the new media law. He presented an analysis of Article 5 “on the organization of TV and radio broadcasting” and Article 6 “on licensing of TV and radio broadcasting”.

On Dec. 2, Vlasenko participated in the meeting of the Majilis working group on the draft of media law in Astana.

On Dec. 3, Vlasenko participated as an expert on *Pressa* TV program on Channel 31 (Almaty).

On Dec. 8, Vlasenko met with a representative of Almaty Department of Customs Control. Customs refused to cede equipment to be distributed through Internews’ production fund program.

On Dec. 9, Vlasenko participated in a press conference at The Kazakhstani Press Club regarding discussions on new media law in a working group of Mazhilis.

On Dec. 9 Vlasenko delivered a lecture at Internews' accounting seminar entitled: "Legal Aspects of Accounting of TV and Radio Stations."

On Dec. 13, Vlasenko gave an interview for Deutsche Welles on the draft of the new media law.

On Dec. 18, Vlasenko participated at the national public debates on new media law with an analysis of the ninth article of the new media law.

On Dec. 18 – 19, Vlasenko participated in a seminar "Particularities and New Aspects of Accounting and Taxation of TV and Radio," held by NAT/KZ.

On Dec. 22 – 23, Vlasenko participated in a conference of Central Asian human rights advocates and journalists called "Human Rights and Coverage of Human Rights Issues in the Mass Media."

#### *Draft on the Media Law*

Vlasenko spent much of October preparing a commentary on the new draft of the media law in preparation for discussions in parliament. Vlasenko also gave consultation to NAT KZ which is also preparing a commentary to the draft. Vlasenko's comparative summary on the draft is published on Internews' web site [www.internews.kz](http://www.internews.kz). Vlasenko gave interviews to mass media, commenting on the new draft to NTK TV and *Navigator* Internet newspaper.

On October 20, Vlasenko participated in the first national public hearings on the draft of the new media law in Almaty, in which he presented an analysis on the first chapter of the law.

On October 21, Vlasenko participated in the discussion on the draft of the media law at the meeting of the Mazhilis Committee on Socio-Cultural Development in Astana. He presented Internews' commentary in Russian and Kazakh languages to the Mazhilis.

#### *Association Work*

##### *National Association of Independent Broadcasters of Kazakhstan (NAT-KZ)*

On Oct. 1, Balzhan Beisembekova, executive director of National Association of Independent Broadcasters of Kazakhstan (NAT KZ) and Alexander Smagliev, fundraising consultant for NAT KZ, participated in a meeting of electronic media professional organizations called "Open Media Community," organized by the Association of Independent Broadcasters of Ukraine. The meeting addressed the issues of rendering more effective assistance to broadcasters. At the meeting, participants established a council uniting broadcasters' associations from Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Hungary, Georgia, Estonia, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which will facilitate knowledge sharing, exchanges, organization of joint events and other activities. Beisembekova became a member of the council's working group.

On Oct. 8-12, NAT KZ provided informational support for the final round of the second Youth Information Forum.

On Oct. 10, NAT KZ became a member of the Forum of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan. The goals of the Forum are to negotiate with government, provide constructive dialogue with the authorities, to form a positive image of entrepreneurs, and to obtain government support to develop entrepreneurship. As a member of the Forum, NAT KZ will be able to expand its activities, establish new business contacts and influence the process of the development of small and medium sized enterprises in Kazakhstan.

In October and November, NAT/KZ and the Congress of Journalists (which is close to Dariga Nazarbayeva) made public addresses to the president of Kazakhstan about extending benefits to mass media, freeing them from VAT. As such a proposal is in the interests of Dariga Nazarbayeva, affording her economic benefits, we were certain that these addresses would be heard. This is usually the case when interests to develop the industry by participants in the market coincide with those of Nazarbayeva. Nevertheless, it is important that NAT/KZ is active in upholding the business of interests of its members.

In December NAT/KZ suggested that its members form a Public Coordination Council to handle contentious issues on the decency of TV and Radio programs as well as Film and Video productions. This is an attempt to avoid the arbitrary decisions of the Ministry and judicial bodies on issues in which the decency of content is in dispute.

NAT/KZ also participated in discussions on the law on mass media in coordination with Internews. The association held a general meeting in October in which the government draft was discussed and the association came up with recommendations to be put forwards. The president and lawyer of NAT/KZ went to Astana for the sessions of the parliamentary working group and presented a list of recommendations for the parliament. As the working group's efforts proved to be ineffective, NAT/KZ decided that they should not walk out of the group with Internews and Adil Soz, so as not to complicate the association's relations with the government and to continue holding an observatory role in the drafting process and to continue engaging in the discussions.

#### *Adil Soz*

*Adil Soz* continued to be active in the discussions of the draft of the law on mass media, and supported Internews in all of its actions, including participating in the discussions in Parliament and the decision to walk out of the working group.

In December, *Adil Soz* received a micro-grant from the European Commission Delectation to conduct an analysis of the legal practices of mass media in Kazakhstan.

*Adil Soz* continued its monitoring of violations of the rights of mass media in Kazakhstan as well as in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, in conjunction with its partner organizations.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

##### *Court Cases*

On Oct. 8, Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev defended the editorial board of the newspaper *Moskovski Komsomolets* in Bishkek's Leninsky district court. The newspaper is being sued by the

Universal Church for defamation. In an article entitled “Religious Paradise for...” published in Nov. 2002, the journalist Alisher Muradov compared the organization to a cult and criticized its activities. The court ruled that the statements in the article were untrue, regardless of the fact that at the present moment, because of numerous claims, the activities of the Universal Church in the Kyrgyz Republic has been suspended by a decision from the State Commission on Religious Activities. The newspaper was ordered to publish a refutation and pay compensation in the amount of 1,000 soms (\$25) for moral harm. The editorial board of *Moskovski Komsomolets* is planning to appeal the decision at the Bishkek city court.

### *Legal Project: on Election Campaigns*

In November, Alagushev analyzed and prepared a commentary for the draft law to introduce changes to the electoral code of the Kyrgyz Republic. Alagushev commented on issues of pre-election campaigning in foreign mass media, a period of prohibition on opinion polls, and the purchase of paid political advertisements. The commentary was published in Internews’ bulletin and circulated among deputies involved in the legal drafting process.

On Dec. 3, Alagushev participated in a parliamentary hearing on the amendments to the election code concerning election campaigning. Participants included members of international organizations, journalists and deputies. Alagushev presented the following comments on the proposed changes:

- the prohibition for foreign mass media distributed in Kyrgyzstan to participate in the election campaign should clearly state that foreign mass media maintain the right to cover the elections;
- the prohibition of opinion polls after candidates are registered limits the right of citizens to freedom of opinion, expression, and access to information guaranteed by the Kyrgyz constitution. Publication of polls should be limited only a to short time before the elections, as is the case in most democratic countries;
- the obligation of independent mass media to provide air time and print space to candidates on a contract basis should not be an obligation but a right;
- the status of political advertising should be legally defined.

### *Rules for the Competition for the Attribution of Radio Frequencies to Broadcasters*

With technical support from Internews and financial support from Soros, the Kyrgyz Association of Broadcasters Mass Media is preparing an alternative document proposing rules for the competition for the attribution of radio frequencies. This document presents an alternative to the guidelines proposed by the State Agency of Communications at the beginning of 2003. A working group was created including in its membership the leadership of the association, several directors of broadcast outlets, specialists from the State Agency of Communications, representatives of the Antimonopoly Committee, the managing director of the Association of Communication Operators, Soros Kyrgyzstan’s lawyer and Internews’ lawyer Akmat Alagushev.

The working group met on Oct. 21 and 24 to share ideas. The group decided to use the system of frequency attribution used in Russia as a model. The main aspects of this model have been summarized and were presented by the Association and Internews. In November, the main points of the alternative proposal will be presented at a conference.

In support of the initiative of the working group, on Oct. 21, Internews put out the following statement on the allocation of frequencies for UHF TV Broadcast and VHF FM Radio Broadcast in the Kyrgyz Republic :

*In July 2003 Acting Head of the President's Administration Mr Ashirkulov approved Regulations» On the contest of allocation of frequencies for UHF TV Broadcast and VHF FM radio broadcast.”*

*According to the Regulations the contest is conducted by the State Commission on Radio Frequencies (SCRF) and is aimed at selection of the best proposals on launching TV and Radio broadcast in VHF FM and UHF ranges on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.*

*The Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic in December 2002 studied the Regulations and suggested the State Agency of Communications under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAC) «to elaborate the Regulations and set it in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.»*

*The State Commission on Anti-Monopoly Policy under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in February 2003 studied the provided by the SAC for concordance draft decree of the Government «On the order of the contest of allocation of frequencies for UHF TV broadcast and VHF FM radio broadcast” and returned it to the SAC with corresponding remarks. In particular it was noted that «a shortage of frequency range and necessity of introduction of a contest on allocation of frequencies for TV and Radio broadcast should be based on transparency of frequency usage in the country».*

*Today the SAC under the Government of the KR expressed its agreement to consider an alternative draft of the Regulations «On the order of the contest of allocation of frequencies for UHF TV Broadcast and VHF FM radio broadcast”, which will be developed by the Expert Group, made of specialists in the sphere of mass media, communications and law. The Expert Group is launched on the initiative of the “Mass Media” Association with support of the Foundation “Soros-Kyrgyzstan” and “Internews-Kyrgyzstan.”*

*Being convinced that transparency in regulation of mass media activity from the moment when they start their activity, including the licensing permissive process, assists the freedom of speech and development of the information sphere of the state;*

*Considering that existence of numerous independent mass media on the national, regional and local levels, as a rule, strengthens democratic processes; and diversity of mass media and content provided by those media outlets has the topping importance for the pluralism of mass media;*

*Accenting an importance of the population to have an easy access to diverse media content; and a fact that mass media should provide an opportunity to various groups of the society to express their views and interests;*

*Internews – Kyrgyzstan expresses its interest in an equitable, transparent and based on rational principles and rule of law order of allocation of frequencies for UHF TV Broadcast and VHF FM Radio Broadcast in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Regulations on allocation of frequencies should solve the problem of allocating naturally limited frequency resources, prevent the danger of freedom of speech limitation and state censorship of information, distributed through TV/Radio Broadcast and provide highest possible transparency of the frequency allocation process. Naturally limited radiofrequency range makes it necessary that the provision of licenses and permissions for the use of radiofrequencies is based on fair and open competition.*

*Transparency of the frequency allocation process suggests an openness of the process and activity of a body that deals with allocation of frequencies – the State Commission on Radio Frequencies of the Kyrgyz Republic (SCRF). All meetings, decisions and documents of the Commission should be open, except for the ones protecting interests of private life, state and commercial secrets. And, the structure of the Commission should also include representatives of authoritative public, professional, media associations and other organizations. One of the important principles is a rationality of requirements, given to the mass media when bidding for frequencies, which should be feasible and practicable in order to provide an opportunity to mass media to attract potential investors. It should be noted that the sphere of TV and Radio Broadcast demands high financial investments. Applications for obtaining broadcast licenses should be evaluated in accordance with clear, objective criteria, reflecting needs of various layers of population, barring over-concentration of several frequencies in one hand, and evaluation of financial and technical possibilities of the applicant. In order the tasks mentioned above to be solved Internews – Kyrgyzstan expresses its readiness and devotion to support the Expert Group, which is called to develop and alternative draft Regulations «On the order of the contest of allocation of frequencies for UHF TV Broadcast and VHF FM radio broadcast». This step will assist the development of electronic mass media in the Kyrgyz Republic and play a vital role in formation of public opinion in the country.*

On Nov. 14-15, Nov. 28-30, and Dec. 9-10, Alagushev participated in the activities of the working group preparing an alternative document for rules on the competition for the attribution of radio frequencies to TV/Radio broadcasters. On Nov. 28-30, Internews Russia lawyer Fiodor Kravchenko was invited by Soros-Kyrgyzstan and Internews to provide expertise. The working group submitted the completed document for expertise to lawyers and international organizations. It will next be submitted to Kyrgyz electronic media managers for approval during a special conference before being presented before the National Agency of Communications.

#### *Other*

On Oct. 3-4 Internews lawyers Akmat Alagushev and Nadejda Alisheva participated in a seminar organized by ABA/CEELI on writing individual complaints to the UN human rights committee. The trainer was Karinna Moskalenko, Director of the International Protection Centre in Moscow.

On Nov. 21-23 in Issyk-Kul, Alagushev participated in a seminar-conference entitled “Elaborating Approaches to the Policy for Supplying Access to Telecommunications in the Kyrgyz Republic,” organized by Fund Soros-Kyrgyzstan and the Association of Communication Operators and attended by nearly 40 government officials, private companies’ managers and

NGO representatives. They discussed the development of the society of information in Kyrgyzstan, and normative and legal aspects of the new mechanisms providing access to telecommunications' services.

## **Tajikistan**

### *New Media Law Roundtables*

In October, Internews and the Association of Independent Broadcasters of Tajikistan/NANSMIT submitted their changes and additions to the law on radio and TV broadcasting developed at the joint Internews-NDI roundtable on Sept. 4, to parliamentary deputy Usmon Nosir.

On Dec. 1, Internews arranged a round table for representatives from USAID and Tajik media professionals to discuss new media legislation. Tajik parliamentarian, Usmon Nosir, also participated in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to inform USAID about the developments in Tajikistan in the sphere of media legislation to develop a strategy on how to best face the worsening media environment in the country.

### *Consultations*

Internews lawyer Farrukhshoh Junaidov, continued to provide legal consultation to Internews media partners:

On Oct. 1, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Bakhtiyor Asrorov and Safar Shoimardonov from TV Somonion on questions concerning media legislation and Human Rights NGOs.

Oct. 17, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Mahmudjon Dadoboev at TV Jahonoro on questions regarding fees for state inspections and registration of broadcasting equipment.

Oct. 27, Junaidov provided consultation to Khossiyat Kast, executive director of the media organization *TajANESMI*, on question concerning media legislation. Junaidov also provided her with copies of media laws and other printed matter.

On Nov. 4, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Numon Umarov (TV Gulibodom) concerning state interference in the activities of the station.

On Nov. 5, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Mahmudjob Dadoboev (TV Jahonoro), Bahrom Boboev (TV Isfara), Qodir Tashmatov (TV Ghulakandoz), and Abdumuin Juraev (TV Simo) regarding fees and tariffs related to decree no. 7 as signed by the Ministry of Communication on Sept. 1, 2002. These fees and tariffs are related to technical inspections necessary in order to receive broadcasting licenses from the Ministry of Communication.

On Nov. 12, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Zebo Tajiboeva (*Asia Plus*) on issues of journalists' access to information.

On Nov. 26, Junaidov provided legal consultation to Nosirjon Mamudzoda (from newspaper *Ruzi Nav*) on the concept paper on information security signed by the president of Tajikistan.

On Nov. 27, Junaidov provided legal consultations to Suhbatullo Yusupov (*TV Kurghon-teppa*) concerning the rights and responsibilities of journalists.



On Dec. 4, Junaidov provided legal consultations to Parvina Hamidova (*Asia Plus*) on the privatization of the cotton processing plant Pakhtai Proletar. The consultations were related to a number of articles in *Asia Plus*.

On December 11, Junaidov provided legal consultations to Fathullo Khayrulloev (TV Somonion) concerning the registration of the trademark of TV Somonion.

On December 23, Junaidov provided legal consultations to Atokhon Ghaniev (Nabz) concerning licensing practices for production studios.

### *Legal Literacy Trainings*

On Nov. 6, Junaidov presented a session on laws related to internet and media in Tajikistan at a computer literacy training seminar arranged by Internews for electronic media outlets in southern Tajikistan that have been recently supplied with Internet through the connectivity project executed with supplementary funds from USAID that were issued in early 2003.

On Nov. 28-29, Internews arranged a legal literacy seminar entitled “Intellectual Property and Electronic Media Outlets.” The seminar was held in Dushanbe, and lectures were given by Internews lawyer Farrukhsho Junaidov, representatives from State Agency of Intellectual Property, Numon Mukumov, and Asadullo Abdulloev, and legal expert Rahmatulla Zohirov.

### *Conferences*

On Nov. 20, Junaidov participated in the round table arranged by NANSMIT on access to governmental information.

### *Interviews in the Media*

On Oct. 7, Internews lawyer Farrukhshoh Junaidov participated in the live air program *Vasha Positsiya* (Your Position) on Radio Asia Plus in which he spoke about the law on radio and TV broadcasting.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Court Cases*

On Oct. 8-9, Internews lawyer Galina Mayorova traveled to Andizhan to represent Internet journalist Saidjakhon Zaynobiddinov. Zaynobiddinov is also a human rights defender with the Andijan branch of the Society for Human Rights of Uzbekistan. Last month, legal proceedings under Article 139, part 2, of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan were brought against him after he wrote two articles on the Internet critical of Andijan government officials. One article was called “The Law on the Side of Officials,” and the other “A Judge Beats a Woman.”

On Oct. 13-15, Mayorova traveled to Andijan to participate in Zaynobiddinov’s questioning on the stand. At present, she is working on additional petitions and complaints to the Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Zaynobiddinov’s case.

On Oct. 9, Internews lawyer Karim Bakhriev met with Mirodil Abdurakhmanov, Editor-in-Chief of the Tashkent-based newspaper *Mulkdor*. The newspaper's Karshi-based reporter, Boymat Jumayev was arrested on June 12th and is being tried by the Karshi City Court, charged with malfeasance in office and bribery. According to investigators, he had accepted a bribe of \$300 from Norkuvat Khalilov, head of the Guzar department of the National Bank of Uzbekistan. Jumayev's lawyer, Tursunoy Salimova, believes the real reason behind the trial is her client's critical articles. Jumayev, writing under the penname of Boy Mukhammad Juma, wrote articles that outlined corruption in Uzbekistan's banking system that were published in the newspaper *Mulkdor*. Some of those articles include two called "Secret in the Bank Loan File" (*Mulkdor*, June 28, 2002) and "Where is the Cash?" (*Mulkdor*, Dec. 20, 2002).

#### *Court Cases against Mokhiyat Newspaper: Buriyev vs. Mokhiyat*

From Aug. 14 to Oct. 9, Internews lawyer Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov successfully defended the newspaper *Mokhiyat* in the libel lawsuit, *Poet Olimjon Buriyev vs. Mokhiyat*. The poet Buriyev claimed he had been libeled by the newspaper when a journalist used a sentence that contained a play on words from one of his poems. At the October court hearing, Buriyev claimed 84 million Uzbek soums in moral damages, twice the original amount. On Oct. 9, the court dismissed Buriyev's claim. Buriyev said he will appeal to the Tashkent City Civil Court.

On Dec. 2, lawyer Shakhnazarov participated in the case of *Olimjon Buriyev vs. Mokhiyat* as the defense lawyer for Adukayum Yuldashev, the newspaper's editor. Again, the newspaper was found not guilty as charged in the court proceedings.

#### *Court Cases against Mokhiyat Newspaper: Erbutayeva vs. Mokhiyat*

In December, the Mirobod Inter-District Civil Court of Tashkent upheld the claim filed by Gulsara Erbutayeva, chief physician of a children's hospital in Angren, against the newspaper *Mokhiyat* and its correspondent Kayum Muminov. The judge ruled that the newspaper *Mokhiyat* and Muminov must pay the plaintiff 500 thousand Uzbek soums (500 USD) each, and must also defray 150 thousand Uzbek soums in litigation costs.

On May 30, 2003, the newspaper published an article entitled "Two Paint Pots" by Kayum Muminov. The article claimed that Erbutayeva solicited patients for gifts. Erbutayeva found the article humiliating and sued for 10 million Uzbek soums (10 thousand USD) in moral damages.

The newspaper and its writer Muminov failed to file an appeal, because the court had not provided them with all the necessary documents. Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov, Internews Uzbekistan's OSCE-funded lawyer, presently acts Muminov's defense lawyer. They are going to appeal the decision of the court in January 2004.

#### *Consultations*

On Oct. 3, Bakhriev provided legal consultation to Binafsha Shodiyeva, press secretary of the Kamolot Foundation, on media copyright laws. Shodiyeva holds a Master's Degree from the Faculty of Journalism of the National University of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She is currently working on a research project called "Mass Media Copyrights." Uzbek citizens and institutions routinely violate international copyright laws. The Kamolot Foundation is the successor to the Soviet Komsomol youth program.

On Oct. 6, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Abdumalik Ismoilov the press assistant at the US Embassy's Public Affairs Section. Bakhriev provided information on the status of convicted journalists presently serving their sentences in Uzbekistan, of journalists under investigation, as well as those pardoned by President Karimov. The information was used for a report to be presented by U.S. Ambassador to OSCE, Stephan Mikines. The transcript of Mikines' report was published by the State Department and is available on the Internet on [www.cjes.ru](http://www.cjes.ru) or [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

On Oct. 11, Shakhnazarov provided consultation to Tamara Prokopieva, director of Orbita TRC (Angren), on how to draw up a contract on the sale of information.

On Oct. 13, Bakhriev provided consultation to Mukambar Kalonkhonova, wife of journalist Murad Kalokhonov. As a journalist of the newspaper *Adolat*, Kalokhonov had been convicted for extortion and is presently serving out his sentence. His wife wanted to learn more about the right to appeal as well as the possibilities of amnesty. Bakhriev explained what she could do in order to have her husband's case reconsidered by appeal or review courts.

On Oct. 16, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Pardakul Turakulov, a reporter of the newspaper *Samarkandskiy Vestnik* on media copyright laws. His article called "The First Swallow" (*Samarkandskiy Vestnik*, Jul. 23, 2003) was republished without permission by the newspaper *Pravda Vostoka*, which Turakulov believes constitutes plagiarism.

On Oct. 27, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Voris Vokhidov, an employee of the Information Department of the Oliy Majlis (Uzbek Parliament), on access to information. Vokhidov inquired about accreditation of journalists wishing to cover Parliamentary debates.

On Nov. 1, 2003, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan, provided legal consultation to Nasira Toshpulatova, instructor of the Faculty of International Journalism, on journalists' rights and duties. Toshpulatova gives lectures on mass media legislation at the University.

On Nov. 3, 2003, Bakhriev provided a consumer rights consultation for Victor Sapiro, Director of Chirchik TV. Chirchik TV is going to switch to PAL/SECAM. Viewers with older television sets will only be able to receive the signal in black and white. This concerned Sapiro and he wanted to know if this would violate their rights. Bakhriev explained that it would be ethical to inform the people in advance that the station plans to switch to PAL/SECAM, but Chirchik TV is not a cable television and as such has no contractual obligations to the audience. Bakhriev also advised Sapiro to adhere to the station's licensing agreement.

On Nov. 3, 2003, Bakhriev provided legal consultation to Javlon Abdullayev who has a Master's degree from the Tashkent Legal Institute and is presently doing research on the role of the media in a democratic society.

On Nov. 7, 2003, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Islom Angibayev, editor of the magazine *Economy and Law*, on publishing inserts for the magazine. Angibayev wants to publish transcripts of judgments. In accordance with the latest Decree by the Cabinet of Ministers #418, newspaper/magazine inserts must be registered separately.

On Nov. 12th, 18th and 25th, Mayorova provided consultation to Elmira Khasanova from State TV-4 in order to write a legal complaint about censorship on Khasanova's behalf.

On Nov. 12 and 13, Mayorova provided two legal consultations by telephone for Konstantin Aksyonov from Urgench in Horezm province on re-registration of his limited partnership company. Mayorova is working on a new expert opinion on this case basing it on the national and international laws.

On Nov. 12 and 13, Mayorova provided two telephone consultations for Konstantin Aksyonov from Urgench in Horezm province on re-registration of his limited partnership company. Mayorova issued an expert opinion on this case basing it on national and international laws. Aksyonov said he did not need legal assistance anymore.

On Nov. 24, 2003, Bakhriev provided legal consultation for Dildora Khasanova of UzTV1 on the presence of cameras in public and private premises. Khasanova is going to produce a number of reports for the program *Assolom Uzbekiston*.

On Nov. 26, 2003, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Ruzi Saidova, Press Secretary of the Supreme Economy Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on open courts and legal procedures in open and closed courts.

On Dec. 3, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Yuldoshkhon Ubaydullayev, director of the independent TV station Sharq in Namangan, on ownership rights. The station bought a building at an auction and paid a portion of the money. Under the contract, the station was to pay the rest in installments. However, the seller demanded that the station pay at once or return the building.

On Dec. 3-4, Mayorova provided consultations at the office of Internews Uzbekistan for the telephone hotline Internews administers offering legal advice to journalists. She provided a consultation for Mekhri Saatova, Producer of *Jarayon*. Saatova wanted to know if she could air a program about a case that had not yet concluded.

On Dec. 4, Bakhriev provided legal consultation for Farkhad Kadirov and Bekhzod Berdiyev, fourth-year students from the Faculty of International Journalism with the Uzbek State World Languages University. The two had published a newspaper which was then banned by the Dean's office. Berdiyev was even threatened with being kicked out of school. Bakhriev explained the two young journalists their rights.

On Dec. 4, Bakhriev provided legal consultation for Sangin Jabbarov, instructor of the Faculty of International Journalism with the Uzbek State University of World Languages, on how to set up an NGO. Jabbarov wants to set up a center for journalism education. Bakhriev helped Jabbarov draw up the NGO's charter and explained how to apply for registration.

On Dec. 5, Bakhriev provided legal consultation for Agzamjon Dadajonov, an instructor at the Faculty of International Journalism with the Uzbek State University of World Languages, on codes of professional ethics and the relationship between the codes and the formal laws. Dadajonov is presently working on his dissertation devoted to professional ethics.

On Dec. 9, Bakhriev provided legal consultation for Ismat Khushev on labor legislation. Khushev is the former Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Milliy Talim*, but was fired by the newspaper's founder, the Ministry of Higher Education. The founder cited financial reasons, whereas Khushev said he had been fired for publishing critical articles. Bakhriev explained Khushev his rights and how to defend them in accordance with Uzbek legislation.

On Dec. 10-11, Mayorova, Internews provided consultations at the office of Internews Uzbekistan for the telephone hotline Internews administers offering legal advice to journalists. She provided a consultation for the participants of the six-week seminar organized by Internews Uzbekistan. The consultation focused on gender issues and gender equality in particular.

On Dec. 22, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Dinara Mirzakarimova from USAID on registration of mass media under the Decree #418 of the Cabinet of Minister on the Order of Registration of Mass Media Outlets in Uzbekistan of 30 Sept. 2003. Human rights organizations had applied to USAID asking them to help register their newsletters and USAID in turn, appealed to Internews for help.

On Dec. 23, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Malokhat Yuldasheva, correspondent with State TV station, Tashkent TV, on employer-employee relations in accordance with Uzbekistan's labor legislation.

On Dec. 24, Bakhriev provided a consultation for Bakhodir Djurayev, correspondent with the government TV channel Yoshlar (UzTV-2), on advertising legislation and sponsorship in the context of mass media. Djurayev wanted to know if sponsors have a right to interfere into content production.

Throughout December, Mayorova, Internews Uzbekistan's OSCE-funded lawyer, continued to provide consultations for Elmira Khasanova, whose programs are censored by the management of TV-4, a channel of the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan. Mayorova provided consultations on legislation related to censorship, consumers' rights and journalism as well as other aspects of the national and international law. Mayorova issued an expert opinion on Khasanova's case. She also wrote a claim on Khasanova's behalf. The claim will be submitted to an inter-district civil court. Mayorova intends to continue to provide consultations for Khasanova during a possible court case.

On Dec 16, Shakhnazarov provided a consultation for Vera Rudakova, journalist with the newspaper *Pravda Vostoka*. She is presently writing on an article about a civil court case. Shakhnazarov explained where the journalist should focus attention, including effective dates, periods given for appeal, etc. when writing about court cases.

On Dec 16, Shakhnazarov provided a consultation for Tulkin Karaev, former correspondent with the Voice of America. Karaev intends to set up a radio station. Shakhnazarov explained how to apply for registration.

On Dec 16, Shakhnazarov provided a consultation for Barno Isakova, correspondent for Radio Liberty. She is presently working on a piece about pay increases for people working in extreme or hazardous conditions. Shakhnazarov explained that the Cabinet of Ministers draws up a list of high risk territories and factories. If people work in territories or for factories that are not mentioned on the list, despite having high risk employment, they are not entitled to any hazard pay compensation.

On Dec. 19, Shakhnazarov provided a consultation for Abdujalil Rakhimov, director of the independent TV station Nurafshon (Karshi) on whether government structures have a right to monitor his TV station and what he should do if any government official demands that his station not air a certain program.

### *Speaking Engagements/Press Appearances*

On Oct. 16, Bakhriev was a participant and speaker at the roundtable called “The Reform of the Criminal Code: Judicial Review and Protection of the Accused during an Investigation.” The roundtable was held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Tashkent and was organized by the ABA/CEELI, UNDP and the OSCE’s Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

On Oct. 23-24, Shakhnazarov gave two lectures to the participants of Internews’ media monitoring seminar. The lectures were called “Proceedings and the Media” and “Defense of Journalists in the Courts.”

On Oct. 23-29, Mayorova participated in an international conference called “Use of Languages of Ethnic Minorities in Electronic Media” in Baden, Austria.

On Nov. 15, 2003, Bakhriev gave an interview to the London-based BBC on legal protection of journalists in Uzbekistan.

On Nov. 27, 2003, Bakhriev delivered a lecture at the conference “Access to Information” organized by the OSCE and the Ebert Foundation.

On Nov. 28, 2003, Bakhriev participated in a roundtable meeting devoted to seeking, receiving and imparting information organized by the Swiss-based organization CIMERA. Bakhriev gave a talk called “Legal Basis of the Work of Mass Media: Monitoring of Violations of Journalists’ Rights in terms of Access to Information.”

On Dec. 1, Karim Bakhriev gave an interview to Deutsche Welle on informational security in Uzbekistan. The interview was aired on Dec. 1, and then published by the website Centrasia on Dec 2, 2003.

On Dec. 2, Bakhriev participated in a meeting of the Tashkent-based Club of Journalists and gave a talk called “Can the Media Become the Fourth Estate [in Uzbekistan]?”

On Dec. 10, Mayorova participated in a radio program about the Legal Clinic for Journalists produced by journalist Zulfiya Rasuli and aired by the radio station Yoshlar.

On Nov. 28, the newspaper *Mokhiyat* published Shakhnazarov’s article entitled “Journalist va Sudya: Ular Bir-Birlarini Khurmat Kilishadimi?” (“Journalists and Judges: Do They Respect Each Other?”).

On Dec. 2, Shakhnazarov gave an interview to Voice of America Radio. The interview focused on the media violations monitoring project implemented by Internews under a grant from *Adil Soz* (Kazakhstan).

On Dec 5, Shakhnazarov gave an interview to Voice of America Radio. The interview focused on Olim Toshev, whom Shakhnazarov believes is being persecuted for his critical articles.

On Dec 22, Shakhnazarov gave an interview to Radio Liberty on legal awareness in the Uzbek population.

### *Meetings*

On Nov. 3, 2003, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan, met with Khurshid Dustmukhammad, Chairman of the Foundation for Democratization of Mass Media, to exchange views on the idea of drawing up a code of professional ethics and setting up a media ombudsman. The Foundation wants to organize a number of seminars and roundtable meetings on journalism ethics and its wants to monitor the observance of professional ethics by the media. Bakhriev advised Dustmukhammad on how to write a proposal and how to implement such a project.

On Nov. 17, 2003, Bakhriev participated in a meeting of the Soros Foundation in charge of civil society, economy and the media. At the meeting, the group considered grant proposal received from applicants.

On Dec. 10-17, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan, at the invitation of the Dutch-based political and cultural center De Balie ([www.debalie.nl](http://www.debalie.nl)), participated in a series of discussions held in Amsterdam called “Central Asia in Transition.” In addition to his participation in roundtable meetings, Bakhriev met with OSCE representatives, as well as representatives of the Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with NGO’s such as Novi(b) and Hivos.

On Dec. 18, Bakhriev met with Allison Gill, representative of Human Rights Watch in Uzbekistan. Bakhriev and Gill talked about Internews’ work, freedom of speech conditions in Uzbekistan, legislation related to mass media, arrested journalists, protection of journalists’ rights, etc.

On Dec. 19, Bakhriev met with Rustam Shagulyamov, General Director of the Uzbek Agency for Press and Information, to discuss (a) publication of a newsletter on information legislation and commentaries on Uzbekistan’s legislation (under a project of Soros-Budapest), and (b) registration of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan.

On Dec. 22, Shakhnazarov participated in the roundtable meeting devoted to the Bar in Uzbekistan. The meeting was organized by the American Bar Association and the Uzbek Bar Association.

On Dec. 23, Bakhriev met with Jabbar Razzakov, director of the publishing house Ijod Dunyoshi, to negotiate publishing the newsletter *Freedom of Speech* (under a grant from Soros-Budapest). The publishing house has agreed to publish the newsletter.

On Nov. 28, 2003, Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov, Internews Uzbekistan’s OSCE-funded lawyer, participated in a workshop devoted to the relations between the media and courts. The workshop was organized by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Foundation for the Support and Democratization of Media in Uzbekistan.

### *Publications*

Throughout the quarter, Bakhriev worked on the content of the first edition of the information law bulletin *Erkin Soz (Freedom of Speech)* published under a Soros Foundation grant. Most of the articles in the bulletin are written by Bakhriev and by Shakhnazarov.

Throughout the quarter, Bakhriev, worked on the book titled “Information Legislation: Legal Basis of the Work of the Media and Journalists.” The book will be published under a grant received from Soros-Budapest and will be released in early 2004.

On Oct. 14, Bakhriev met with Jasur Norboyev, coordinator of the legal program of Soros Foundation Uzbekistan. They discussed possible cooperation in publishing a manual on law relevant to citizen's right to information, the first such manual in independent Uzbekistan's history. This type of law is not taught by journalism or legal schools in Uzbekistan.

### *Association Work*

The Association's documents were submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The time period for government officials to review the documents expired Oct. 15. Unfortunately, there have been changes in the Presidential administration. Former Deputy Prime Minister Khamidullo Karamatov has been replaced by Alisher Azizkhoyev, someone who is much less likely to approve of the registration of the association.

The association's chairmen, Bakhtiyor Rajabov and Agzam Usmanov, visited a conference on the creation and development of associations of broadcasters that took place in Kiev on Sept. 28-Oct. 3. At the conference, broadcasters from Serbia, Macedonia, Hungary, Central Asia, and Caucasus gathered for a roundtable discussion to share experience and exchange views. The Uzbek directors shared with the other participants the problems they have had to face in Uzbekistan. The head of the Association of Broadcasters of Ukraine, Natalya Lebedeva, suggested setting up an international association of broadcasters.

On December 1-2, the currently unregistered Association of Electronic Press gathered at the Tashkent Hotel Mir to discuss goals, common interests and to elect a president. The Association also met with the express purpose of expanding eligibility for membership. Those in attendance included private TV station directors, cable operators, and radio station directors. Director of STV Samarkand TV station, Firdavs Abdukhalikov, was elected president.

On Oct. 8, Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov, an OSCE-funded lawyer, reviewed the draft charter of Yul, the Association of Uzbekistan's Journalists, which was drawn up by Arthur Fuzaylov, a Samarkand-based freelance journalist. Shakhnazarov pointed out mistakes and flaws in the draft charter and gave feedback on how to improve it.

### *Parliament*

On Dec. 4, Shakhnazarov participated in the conference devoted to the transparency of court procedures. The conference was held at the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Shakhnazarov gave a talk suggesting the abolition of the article in the Code of Criminal Procedure that declares that audio and video recording in the courtroom are possible only when authorized by a judge. Shakhnazarov claims that judges too often abuse this article to prevent journalists from fulfilling their professional responsibilities.

### *Legal Literacy for Journalists*

On Dec. 4, Shakhnazarov gave a talk at the six-week seminar organized by Internews Uzbekistan focusing on: (a) the rights and duties of journalists, (b) how to interact with law enforcement and judicial structures, (c) how to behave in the courtroom when covering court cases, (d) ethical issues related to coverage of court cases, (e) legislation related to coverage of criminal investigations and court cases, and gaps in the legislation, (f) what journalists should pay special attention to when producing content related to courts, (g) how and when judgments are enforced, (h) what sanctions may be applied to journalists who make disturbances in the courtroom, (i) how



to get into the courtroom in order to cover a court case, and (j) legislation regulating professional activities of journalists.

### *Monitoring*

On Oct. 1-9, Bakhriev summed up the reports received from Uzbekistan's provinces under the media monitoring project coordinated by *Adil Soz* and attached his legal commentary to each report. In short, there were 39 violations of journalists' rights.

On Oct. 20-22, Bakhriev, in cooperation with Natalya Ivliyeva, Training Coordinator of local NGO Internews, dealt with logistic arrangements for the training seminar for journalists involved in the media monitoring project (*Adil Soz*). They worked on the curriculum and handouts, as well as negotiated work plans with participants.

On Oct. 23-24, Bakhriev held a training seminar on media monitoring. Ten correspondents from all over Uzbekistan participated in the seminar run by trainer Marat Mukashev, Central Asia Project Coordinator. At the seminar, Bakhriev gave two lectures, "Media Legislation in Uzbekistan" and "Libel Proceedings: Analysis of Trials Involving Media Professionals."

On Nov. 5, 2003, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan and Coordinator of the project "Protection of Democratic Principles of Freedom of Speech in the Central Asian Media" sponsored by the foundation *Adil Soz* (Kazakhstan), prepared the final version of the monitoring report for October 2003 for publication. The report is available at [www.cafspeech.kz](http://www.cafspeech.kz).

On Dec. 1-4, Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan, compiled and edited the monitoring report for November 2003 (*Adil Soz* project). Sixty five violations of freedom of speech were registered. The report in English and Russian is available at [www.cafspeech.kz](http://www.cafspeech.kz).

### *Success Stories*

On Oct. 11-21, Shakhnazarov participated in a trial in the Andizhan Inter-District Civil Court as the defense lawyer of Mukammal Khaidarova, journalist of the Andizhan Provincial TV and Radio Company. On Aug. 13, 2003, Khaidarova had been fired despite being two months pregnant. (It is against the law to fire a pregnant woman). She had arranged to have two lawyers defend her, but later on, neither was willing to help. She next turned to Internews lawyer Shakhnazarov. During the trial, it came out that her media pieces were routinely subjected to censorship by the company's chief editor Andurakhman Tulaganov. The company's chairman and other managers defended her firing, saying Khaidarova did not respect her colleagues nor did she respect the administration. They did not want her to return. Shakhnazarov managed to prove the opposite in the court, and on Oct. 23, the court ruled Khaidarova had to be reinstated to her position.

## **Component 1.2: Skills Development: Journalism and Media Management Training**

### **Kazakhstan**

#### *Seminars*

On Oct. 1-7, Internews held a seminar for journalists on creating long-format news feature stories for 30 participants from 11 TV stations with trainer Timur Ivanov from Ekaterinburg, Russia, Oksana Ivanova-Kalashnikova, producer from Otyrar TV (Shymkent), Galymzhan Sagyndykov, Internews Kazakhstan technical director, Vitali Blagov, Internews Kazakhstan cameraman and Nikolai Sudakov, Internews Kazakhstan cameraman.

On Oct. 11-20, Internews held a radio journalism seminar for radio news and information services reporters with trainer Elena Filimonovych from the Fund for Independent Radio Broadcasting, BBC School (Moscow). Participants included 11 journalists from 11 radio stations. Copies of the book "Time to Work for Radio" were distributed to all participants.

On Oct. 22-23, Internews held a seminar on organization of news services and News Factory computer software for TV stations. Participants included 20 employees from 12 TV stations from eight cities, including 12 news editors and eight system administrators. The seminar was lead by consultants Marina Razorenova, Konstantin Naumov, Denis Shevchenko, who are the authors of News Factory computer software produced by Internews Russia. At the end of the seminar, participants were given updated software.

On Nov. 3 - 9, Internews held a seminar on production of TV news feature stories for journalists, camera operators and editors. Trainers included Timur Ivanov from Yekaterinburg, Russia, Sergey Bondarev from Moscow, Russia, Ahmed Askharov, Internews technical director of *Open Asia*, Vitaly Blagov, Internews camera operator and Nikolai Sudakov, Internews camera operator. Participants included 16 journalists and camera operators/editors from eight TV stations from seven cities in Kazakhstan. The seminar participants' practical work lead to the production of three news feature stories that were later included in *Aina*.

On Nov. 25 – 27, Internews held a three-day seminar entitled "Effective Ad Sales" with consultant/trainer Irina Petrenko, Deputy General Director of ad agency Anatoliev and Partners, (Krasnoyarsk, Russia). 23 participants from ad sales departments of five radio stations and 18 TV stations attended the seminar. The seminar, which intended to maximize station' effectiveness in gathering ad sales covered the basic steps of the advertising process, sales models, work techniques for different customers, financial planning, classification of clients according to budget size and time management for sales managers.

On Dec. 10 – 13 Internews held a seminar for news anchors for news services in both Russian and Kazakh languages. Participants included 13 news anchors from nine TV stations of seven cities of Kazakhstan. Trainers included Aleksandr Kravchenko, producer of Russian State TV, Maria Vinarskaya, producer from Channel 1 (Moscow), Tamara Gorbacheva, speech consultant (for Russian language anchors) and Sauyk Zhakan speech consultant (for Kazakh language presenters). Participating anchors practiced in studio settings and received personal consultations on speech techniques and delivery style.

On Dec. 15 – 19 Internews held a seminar called "Art of the TV interview," conducted in cooperation with the French Embassy in Kazakhstan. Participants included six journalists, four video engineers and three cameramen from six independent TV stations from six cities of Kazakhstan. Trainers included Fabrice Dujardin, from L'Ecole Supérieur de Journalisme de Lille (Lille, France) as well as Internews technical director Galymzhan Sagyndykov, Internews camera operators Vitali Blagov and Nikolai Sudakov and *Open Asia* producer Olga Kaplina. The seminar focused on the main issues of producing professional news stories, TV reports and TV interviews. Participants were familiarized with French TV news reporting styles, and produced eight news stories over the course of the seminar.

On Dec. 18 – 19, Internews in cooperation with National Association of Independent Broadcasters/Kazakhstan (NAT/KZ) held a two day seminar for accountants of TV and radio stations to familiarize them with issues of accounting in accordance with the new Kazakh taxation legislation. Participants included 17 accountants from 10 TV and radio stations.

### *Residencies*

On Oct. 21-25, Internews held a residency at UMAX Radio (Shymkent) for five journalists of the news staff, with trainer Elena Filimonovych from Foundation for Independent Radio Broadcasting, BBC School (Moscow).

On Dec. 8 – 19 Internews held an on site residency for Channel 31 (Almaty) on newsroom organization and on the production of TV news stories with trainer Andrei Yundin, general director of TV-Inform, a TV information agency and production studio that produces news and entertainment programming for Russian TV stations such as ATV-Stavropol (Stavropol), TNT-Stavropol (Stavropol), Mashuk-TV (Pyatigorsk), and radio stations Russkoe Radio (Stavropol) and Dinamit FM (Stavropol). Yundin is a multiple winner of the Russian news competition “Local Time” in the categories of “presenter,” “reporter,” and producer about stories about government. Internews technical director, Galymzhan Sagyndykov and camera-operator Nikolai Sudakov also served as trainers. Participants included 59 employees of Informbureau, Channel 31’s news program, including 23 journalists, six news anchors, 13 technical staff, six camera operators, seven editors, the editor-in-chief and the executive producer.

### *Consultations*

On Nov. 10 – 15, Internews held an on-site consultation for KTK-7 in Pavlodar. Trainers included Internews Kazakhstan journalist and trainer Oksana Osadjuk and Nikolai Sudakov, Internews camera operator. Osadjuk and Sudakov worked with newsroom staff to better coordinate newsgathering activity of the station’s information bureau, as well as consulted on the production of news stories for the station’s news programming. KTK-7 has been in operation for 15 years, however, the station is only beginning to meet professional TV standards, its problems mainly stemming from lack of human resources management and technical development.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Seminars*

On Oct. 17-31 Internews held a seminar on photojournalism for photo correspondents of print and on-line editions. The trainer, Ruben Mangasaryan, is the director of the Patker agency ([www.patkerphoto.com](http://www.patkerphoto.com)), a member of the International Federation of Journalists and of the Yerevan Press-Club. Ten photographers, freelancers and correspondents of capital and regional periodicals took part in the training. Participants devoted most of their time to practical lessons which aimed at strengthening their theoretical skills and obtaining experience with concrete projects. The seminar successfully coincided with preparations for the visit of Russia’s president Vladimir Putin in Kyrgyzstan. Photographers spent a day at the airbase at Kant (outside Bishkek), where Russia had opened a military base. According to Igor Sapozhnikov (*Argumenti ii Fakti*), the seminar strengthened his skill and will prove useful to him in future coverage of stories.

According to Ruben Mangasaryan, the main problem for beginning photographers is the absence of a unified system of education in photojournalism.

On Oct. 27 in Karakol, Internews producer Mirlan Kimsanov and lawyer Akmat Alagushev lead a training called “Rights and Obligations of Journalists” organized by Anten TV journalist Nurgul Sharshembieva with support from Freedom House. The seminar covered the themes of access to information and legal responsibility of journalists with reviews of several cases. Participants did practical exercises and were able to get legal advice concerning their work.

On Dec. 1-7 in Bishkek, Internews organized a seminar on production of TV programs from idea, conception, structure, format to production. Trainers included Russian journalist-producer Irina Kemarskaya and director Andrei Nianchuk. Participants included 11 producers/journalists and directors/cameramen from independent and state TV stations in Bishkek, Karakol and Osh. After one day dedicated to critical analysis of participants’ works, each participant worked on the conception of a program. Proposals were critiqued and the most successful one was selected to be used as a practical exercise. Participants prepared a program which included several reports and was filmed in Internews’ studio. Afterwards, it was critiqued by the trainers.

#### *Master-classes*

In November Internews began a series of ongoing master-classes on practical TV journalism for students in Osh and Bishkek. In Osh about ten students in their fourth year at the Journalism Faculty at Osh State University come twice a week to the Internews office to work with Internews journalist Elima Djaparova and cameraman/editor Tair Tursunaliyev.

In Bishkek, Open Asia producer Evgenia Tklich is teaching TV journalism two hours a week to 17 students from the Journalism Faculty of the Kyrgyz Technical University. Tklich is planning to include short presentations by other Internews staff: cameraman, editor, and lawyer.

#### *Residencies*

On Nov. 21-23, Internews cameraman Aibek Djangaziev traveled to Karakol at the request of TV station Antenn TV to provide assistance to the technical staff working on new equipment the station received through a Democracy Commission grant to start its new live morning program *Dobroe Utro*.

From Dec. 15-27, with support from the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Internews conducted two-day residencies at five Kyrgyz and Russian language radio stations in Bishkek, Naryn, Osh and Tokmok on production of interactive news shows. The aim of these five two-day practical workshops was to evaluate and help improve existing interactive news shows and to follow up on Internews’ seminar on interactive programs for radio held in April 2003. More than a dozen journalists and technical staff benefited from the residencies. The main trainer was Elena Uporova, from the Russian “Fund of Independent Radio Broadcasters”. At three of the residencies, Uporova was assisted by the Kyrgyz radio technician Pavel Jdanko.

#### *Consultations*

On Oct. 25-26, Internews *Door* producer Mirlan Kimsanov traveled to Karakol to help the TV station Antenn TV select new staff and to hold a one-day master-class. This trip was organized at the request of the station which covered lodging and meals expenses for Kimsanov.

On Oct. 9-11, Internews *Asman* assistant producer Natalya Liubeznova traveled to Osh and Batken. She gave consultations to journalists from radio stations Almaz Iug and Radio Salam. They received instructions and advice on how to better prepare reports for the program *Asman*.

### *Conferences*

On Oct. 8, Internews journalist Elima Djaparova led a master-class during a seminar organized by Osh Media Resource Center and IREX for young print and TV journalists. The theme of the master-class was how to prepare reports from press-conferences.

On Nov. 3-6, with support from AED, Internews sent the President and Managing Director of the independent Kyrgyz Association of Broadcasters "Mass Media", as well as four managers from major independent TV/Radio stations in Bishkek, to the 7th International Congress of the National Association of Television and Radio Broadcasters (NAT) in Moscow. All participants sent to the congress are members of the working group preparing an alternative document for rules of the competition for the attribution of radio frequencies in Kyrgyzstan. The congress gave them an opportunity to collect information on broadcasting policies, legislations and technologies, and shared views with CIS broadcasters associations and their members.

On Nov. 14-16, with support from AED, Internews sent four Kyrgyz TV designers from independent stations and production studios to the 4th Russian Conference "Oblik Telekanala: Branding, Promotion, Design." The conference included lectures, master classes and discussions with experienced Russian and foreign experts on themes like promoting different formats, structuring TV air-time or creating a visual message. Each designer was given a package of manuals and presentations on CD and video. An international competition organized within the frame of the conference offered an opportunity to view and comment the most recent television promotion and design works from around the world.

Within the framework of an Internews seminar for editors/designers planned at the beginning of 2004, the four designers who went to the Moscow conference will provide:

- master-classes for seminar participants on use of graphic programs, basic editing techniques, animation, and perception psychology of colors and graphics;
- a briefing on the content of the conference for all interested editors/designers from Bishkek and other cities;
- free consulting to local independent stations willing to improve or change their design or create graphics for their new programs.

On Nov. 7 in Osh, Internews journalist Elima Djaparova participated in a conference organized by the Osh Media Resource Center on general problems of access to information. About 60 people, members of governmental press services, independent journalists and NGO members, participated. Djaparova presented a report on how to deal with the problem of access to information for all citizens across the country. She talked about Internews experience in that field. On Nov. 27 she participated in a round table which was a follow up of the conference with 20 participants and which lead to a request for the creation of a press-service at Osh City Hall.

On Dec. 23, Internews Elima Djaparova participated in a round table organized by OSCE in Osh about relationships between NGOs and journalists. Participants were about 20 journalists and NGO members. They discussed ways to better know each other and work together.

On Dec. 3-6, Internews Kyrgyzstan organized at the Internews Osh office a seminar on efficient communication and work with mass media for CAIP (Community Action Investment Program), a

program designed to build social stability and alleviate sources of potential conflict in the five Central Asia republics. Participants included 20 leaders of local communities and CAIP staff. The main trainer was Russian communication specialist, Evgueny Machnev from St Petersburg. He was assisted by Internews journalist Elima Djaparova.

On Dec. 9, Internews co-coordinated the awards ceremony of the competition "Best Videos about and for Children" in Bishkek with UNICEF, Kyrgyz National Broadcasting Corporation, and Soros Foundation. The competition was connected to the International Children's Day of Broadcasting which is celebrated on each second Sunday of December. The competition lasted from June to December 2003 with more than 60 video materials submitted. Organizers awarded the best videos about children and Internews gave a special prize for "The best quality work" to the Mass Media Center of the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University.

## **Tajikistan**

### *Seminars*

On Oct. 13-18, Internews held a seminar on non-linear editing for beginners for stations that have recently received non-linear editing suites. Internews staff including Internews technical director Ardasher Mansurov, Internews tape editor Suhrob Aliev, and Internews systems administrator Bahodur Babakhanov, lead the training.

On Oct. 22-25, Internews held a training within the framework of the Internet connectivity project to teach station employees basic computer literacy, Internet skills as well as Tajik legal issues dealing with Internet. Participants included 12 employees from six independent stations. Trainers included Andrey Kovalenko, coordinator of the Internet connectivity project, Internews lawyer Farrukhshoh Junaidov, and bulletin editor Rukhsona Olimova.

On Oct. 25, Internews held a seminar on access to information in Tajikistan. More than 20 representatives of print and electronic media outlets participated in the seminar. Farrukhshoh Junaidov and the famous lawyer Rahmatullo Zohirov (head of the NGO the *Legal Consortium of Tajikistan* and chairman of the Social Democratic Party) served as trainers.

Dec. 23-28, Internews held training on computer graphics and design. Andrei Potanin from the production center *Koordinata – 20* (Moscow) trained four young graphic designers, Nasim Rahimov (SM-1), Bahrom Negmatov (TRK Aziya), Khudonazar Zuhurov (Mawji Ozod), Khurshed Fattoev (TV Regar). During the seminar, participants learned the basics of TV design and become familiar with popular graphics software programs.

### *Residencies*

On Oct. 22-25, Karim Azizov (producer of *Nabzi Zindagi*) and Suhrob Aliev (tape editor) held a residency at TV Jahonoro (Sughd) for 12 employees of the station. Participants were introduced to the demands of Internews' news exchange program *Nabzi Zindagi* and produced five news stories for the station's news program, *Khabar*.

On Oct. 12-25, Talabsho Muqimov (student at the faculty of Journalism, Tajik State University) and Mizrob Nughhmanov (a recent graduated currently working at Dom Kino/Kino Servies, and formerly part of the Aga Khan Humanities Project Cinema Group) were provided with two

cameras from Internews and sent to two TV-stations in Khujand. Muqimov was stationed at *SM-1* and made several news stories. One of his stories was about hand made carpets from the Karrakum factory. This story was later broadcasted in *Nabzi Zindagi*. Nughmanov was stationed at *TRK-Aziya*, and made several stories for the local news program. Both Muqimov and Nughmanov participated in Internews school of journalism, the session held in october this year.

December 7-9, Internews trainers Izzatmand Salomov, Suhrob Aliev and Karim Azizov held a three day residency at *SM-1* (Khujand). Twelve persons from the station participated in the residency where several news stories were produced and critiqued.

December 10-13, Internews trainers Izzatmand Salomov, Suhrob Aliev and Karim Azizov held a three day residency at *TRK Aziya* (Khujand). Nine new employees of the station participated and produced and critiqued their news stories.

### *Consultations*

On Oct. 6, Internews tape editor Suhrob Aliev gave technical consultations to Abdullo Olimov, from TV Poytakht (Dushanbe).

On Oct. 14 and 27, producer of *Nabzi Zindagi*, Karim Azizov provided consultations to Khurshid Safarov, director of TV Kurghonteppa concerning this station's contributions to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

On Oct. 14 and 21, Azizov provided consultations to Ismatullo Nurov and Obid Odiliyon from TV Poytakht (Dushanbe) concerning their future contributions to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

On Oct. 15 Azizov provided consultations to Muhammad Rabi Rizvonov, director of the NGO Oriyon in the Rasht Valley. Rizvonov formerly worked for several years in the cultural department of the local government. The NGO Oriyon is mainly preoccupied with microcredit. Azizov's consultations concerned the possibilities to set up a radio station in the valley.

Nov. 3-4, Editor Suhrob Aliev provided consultations to Eshon Qodirov from Tajikistan's State TV concerning digital equipment.

Nov. 4- 5, Aliev provided consultations to Samad Hikmatov, State TV's chief technician concerning digital equipment in use at Tajik TV stations today.

Nov. 5, Azizov (producer) provided consultations to Manucher Najmiddinov and Bahodur Kosimov (TV Sominion) concerning standards and requirements for news contributions to Internews programs.

Nov. 7, Azizov provided consultations to Bilol Shamsov and Khudonazar Zuhurov (*TV Mawji Ozod*) concerning two stories they contributed to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

Nov. 10, Aliev provided consultations to Olim Muminov (freelancing cameraman) on non-linear editing.

Nov. 28, Azizov provided consultations to the directors of *Mawji Ozod*, *TV Kurghon-teppa*, *TV Regar*, *TV Tadaz*, *Gulibodom*, *SM-1*, *TRK Aziya*, *Isfara*, *TV Parviz*, *TV Ghulakandoz*, *TV Jahonoro* on how to improve their contributions to *Nabzi Zindagi*.

December 1, 4, and 5, Parviz Qurbanov provided consultations to the staff at *TV Regar* and the production studio of Asia Plus on the use of Adobe AfterEffects 6.0.

December 5, Karim Azizov provided consultations to Gulahmad Shamsiddinov and Maidso Sadulloev, both in the Aga Khan's Humanities Project at the University of Kulab. These students will likely become involved in Internews new youth programming project beginning in January 2004.

December 16 and 23, Qurbanov provided consultations to Muattar Juraev (Producer at *TVT*) concerning the use of Adobe Premiere 6.5 for the special new years show at *TVT*.

December 18, Azizov provided consultations to Rabe Sharifov (journalists at *TV TadAz*) on how to make a news story about pollution in Regar.

December 19, Azizov provided consultations to Khayriddin Sokiev (director of *TV TadAz*) on producing news stories for *Nabzi Zindagi*.

December 2, 4, and 25, Suhrob Aliev provided consultations to Zinatullo (department head at *TVT*) concerning necessary equipment for setting up a new TV channel in Tajikistan. Zinatullo claims that "an influential Tajik politician" has the intention to set up an independent public service television, and Aliev was asked to provide a list of necessary equipment for this. December 19, Aliev provided consultations to Mulloahmad Aliev (editor at *TV TadAz*) concerning the transfer of digital to VHS.

December 26, Aliev provided consultations to Anvar Aliev at *Kinoservis* on the difference between TV format and film formats.

December 27, Aliev provided consultations to Nuriddin Rahmatov concerning adequate computer configurations for nonlinear editing.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Journalism School*

On Nov, 14, Internews launched a six-week TV journalism school of lead by former BBC reporter Michael Delahaye, assisted by Timur Nigmanov, Cameraman/Editor of Production Fund, and Nazrulla Elkuziyev, Cameraman/Editor of Bekabad TV. All 11 participants from eight independent TV Stations are new to the profession and were selected by Samir Sharafudinov, Technical Director in consultation with station directors.

After two weeks of theoretical work, in December, participants began producing news reports under the guidance of Delahaye, first producing basic news stories, and then longer feature stories. Delahaye taught participants about work organization, writing links and intros, sourcing and how to find stories.

Additional workshops that were included into the school were given by:

- Internews Systems Administrator Bakhtyor Aripov, who taught participants how to use computers and, in particular, Internet, to develop their story ideas;



- Internews Technical Director Samir Sharafutdinov, who taught participants how to use digital cameras and on digital technology in the context of TV production;
- Internews Deputy Director Karim Bakhriev, who spoke about legal aspects related to mass media and to the work of journalists;
- Internews lawyer Galina Mayorova, on gender issues; and
- Internews lawyer Bakhtiyor Shakhnazarov on journalists' rights.

During the school, participants produced stories about the plight of the disabled, about the creation of a new Uzbek sport called "bek-ball," about a museum about the history of Japanese Prisoners of War who lived in Uzbekistan after World War II, about the debate about the benefits of Uzbek students studying abroad bring to Uzbekistan, about the new museum of the City of Tashkent, about the Greek community in Tashkent's struggle to preserve its cultural heritage, and about the Tashkent zoo's efforts at breeding and sustaining its rare Barbary lion.

On Dec.23-25, Internews Uzbekistan held a seminar called "Branding of a TV Channel" run by computer graphics specialist Alexei Kidisyuk for ten participants from eight independent TV stations. Initially, the goal of the seminar was to teach participants how to produce memorable graphics to help create brand recognition for the audience. As the computer graphics expertise of the participants was quite low, Kidisyuk taught the basics of producing graphics for brand development at a station and for simple graphic help on news pieces on the station's programs.

#### *Residencies*

On Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Internews Uzbekistan held a residency at the Namangan Media Resource Center on TV journalism for beginner journalists. Trainers Jakhongir Nakhanov, Muzaffar Usarov and Azizbek Umrzakov lead the residency for employees of Ferghana Valley TV stations Tarakkiyot TV and Sharq TV. The curriculum included lectures on the following topics: "What is News," "Why We Need News," and "Writing for TV." Participants were taught team play, interviewing skills and building visual sequences and produced two news profiles and two complete news pieces.

On Oct. 1-5, Internews Uzbekistan held a residency at ATR Denau (Denau). Shukhrat Khurramov, Producer of *Open Asia*, and Timur Nigmanov, Cameraman/Editor of the Production Fund, taught the participants how to produce news for local news programs, as well as for *Zamon* and *Open Asia*. Participants at the residency produced news pieces on an outbreak of anthrax in border regions of the Surkhandaria Province and on the issue of Uzbek citizens who are Tajiks who were resettled from the Surkhandaria Mountains in 2000 after there had been terrorist incursions in the region.

On Nov. 8-10, at the request of the management of STV, Internews Uzbekistan organized a three-day residency on shooting and non-linear editing for 14 employees of STV, including six editors and eight cameramen. Azizbek Umrzakov, cameraman of Internews Uzbekistan, and Alexei Kidisyuk, Director of VRC Design Studio, ran the seminar. The goal of the seminar was to teach the station staff how to properly use their new digital equipment. At the end of the seminar, the STV team produced a talk show using the new equipment. The talk show was aired at 8 p.m. on Nov. 10.

On Nov. 22-26, 2003, the Open Asia team held a training seminar in Samarkand. The seminar focused on basic news production techniques for producing news feature stories. During the seminar, the Open Asia team consulted with the stations' staff on the lid the Uzbek government

has put on Russian and foreign print production and shot some footage. The participants of the seminar with the Open Asia team drew up a scenario for a piece about 50 Muslims in the village of Gagarin near Samarkand who had converted to Christianity. The people are being persecuted by the police and the local mullah calls them betrayers. Shoots for the piece on foreign business in Uzbekistan were completed. These included an interview with Director General of the SamKochAuto Joint Venture that manufactures buses and video footage of the SamKochAuto factory. The team also completed research for a piece about child mortality. Seminar participants included three journalists and three camera operator/editors all from Samarkand.

On 10-12 Dec. 2003, Jakhongir Nakhanov, Production Fund Director, visited Aloka AK TV station in Gulistan to help them produce their talk show that dealt with partnerships of condominium owners.

### *Study Tours*

On Oct. 20, Internews with Academy for Educational Development (AED), sent a group of five news department heads from Uzbekistan's independent TV stations (Orbita TRC, Margilan TV, Bakhtyor TV, STV and Mulokot TV) to Afontovo TV's Center for TV Management in Krasnoyarsk, for a 10-day training seminar. The news department heads are from the same stations as the managers who participated in the management seminar at Afontovo TV in May 2002, they were chosen based on the progress the stations have made in their commitment to news programming.

### *Consultations*

Samir Sharafutdinov, Technical Director of Internews Uzbekistan, drew up a plan for building a network linking editing (NLE) stations for Turtkul TV in Turtkul.

Sharafutdinov provided consultations by phone to Chirchik TV, Channel 30, STV, Turtkul TV and Orbita TRC.

Sharafutdinov, received and distributed five tuners for stations to receive broadcasts of Voice of America-TV. On Dec. 15, Sharafutdinov provided a consultation for Nurafshon-TV on how to set up a satellite dish. He also re-tuned the tuner belonging to Denau ATR.

### *Conferences*

Internews Uzbekistan was preparing a conference and master classes by Vladimir Posner. Unfortunately, Posner fell ill and the conference and master class were postponed.

### *Resource Center*

On Dec. 30, the Media Resource Center in Namangan gave a press conference for Namangan's journalists and print media. Public officials, including Azizbek Abduvaliyev, Press Secretary of the Hokimiyat of Namangan Province, Alisher Kuymuradov, Chief of the Department of Press and Information of Namangan Province, and Ibrat Sobirov, Director of the Printing Establishment of the Hokimiyat of Namangan Province, also attended the press conference. The press conference was a chance to get local government officials in to the center to talk about press rights and freedoms and introduce Zamon to them.

The Center's Director Akhmadjan Mukhamadjanov and Coordinator Ayubhon Payzullayev talked about the new *Zamon* and showed two pieces -- one on homeless children and the other called "Last Word" by Takhir Malik

Azizbek Abduvaliyev, Press Secretary of the Hokimiyat of Namangan Province, and Alisher Kuymuradov, Chief of the Department of Press and Information of Namangan Province, also spoke and said they wished the Center success. They offered that it would help to support journalists in the region thus contributing significantly to democratic development.

### **Component 1.3: Improved Access to and Use of Modern Information Technology**

#### **Kazakhstan**

##### *PerspekTiVa*

Internews release three issues of the bulletin *Perspektiva* monthly. Highlights in this quarter included coverage of:

- The draft of the mass media law, the public discussion surrounding it, including in depth discussions with the working group in parliament and recommendations from Internews, NAT Kazakhstan, and *Adil Soz* for changes in the legal draft.
- Changes in the law on advertising.
- Extension of benefits to mass media freeing them from VAT.
- US position on freedom of speech, freedom of the media sector in Kazakhstan, and on the case of Sergey Duvanov, from the point of view of Assistant Secretary of State Lorne Craner and Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Elizabeth Jones.
- New developments in the case against Sergey Duvanov, announcement by the Kazakhstan Bureau of Human Rights.
- Announcement by the Kazakhstani Internet journal [www.navigator.kz](http://www.navigator.kz) on the blocking of their site by security services.
- Activities of the commission for the distribution of frequencies in the country.
- Activities of National Association of Broadcasters of Kazakhstan and *Adil Soz*.
- Media in Kazakhstan: on stations' problems (lawsuits), on tenders for production of programs, and on competitions.

##### *Web site*

Internews added 27 pages of commentary by Internews' legal staff on the draft of the media law onto [www.internews.kz](http://www.internews.kz). Three pages of news are posted on the site on a daily basis.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

##### *Communication – the Bulletin of Internews Kyrgyzstan*

Some highlights of articles published in the bulletin this quarter include:

- "A Game Ruled by Officials?" by Internews journalist Artem Petrov. The conference "Power and the Press in Kyrgyzstan", organized by Freedom House on Oct. 8th did not

raise journalists' hopes: it concluded that the chances for bridging the fourth power with the three others were nil. Journalists from independent media continue to accuse government officials of driving to extinction newspapers that it can't control. Officials accuse journalists of "non-professional, non-objective and biased coverage."

- "Freedom of Speech – Threat to National Security?" by journalist Emil Mamataipov. The Central election commission is getting ready to introduce regulations which will prohibit political advertising in foreign mass media working in Kyrgyzstan. What is the commission afraid of? Do local legislators have the right to interfere in foreign mass media activity?
- "How can a monopolist defeat itself?" by Internews journalist Artem Petrov. Currently there is a conflict between the state postal service and three Kyrgyz newspapers. According to several opinions the state post owes at least 500,000 soms (about \$12,000) to three newspapers in Osh region. The state postal system is the only distribution service for newspapers to reach remote areas of the country.
- "We don't quite understand, nevertheless we propose" by Internews journalist Artem Petrov. Deputies started discussing proposed amendments to the Election Code of Kyrgyzstan to meet with much criticism. Opposition figures have already started criticizing the draft, members of the Election Commission themselves call the amendments "a threat to state and society stability," and deputies themselves admit that some articles of the draft are prepared "without full understanding" of different aspects.
- "American printing house: is it all about money?" by Internews journalist Artem Petrov. After several days of operation the new American printing press found itself in the center of a scandal. The chief editor of *Delo* ? newspaper, Victor Zapolsky, criticized the printing press and decided to leave its advisory board.
- Commentary by Internews lawyer Akmat Alagushev on the legal project to abolish criminal charges for libel and personal insult in articles 127 and 128 of the criminal code and to introduce a 5% state duty to be paid by the plaintiff on the amount he is requiring for compensation.

#### *Presentation of New Website*

On Nov. 14 in Osh, Internews journalist Elima Djaparova and bulletin editor Tursunai Chodurova organized a presentation of Internews' new web portal and new projects. Guests learned how to use all the resources of the portal and how to contribute to it. They were informed about possibilities to collaborate with the radio news exchange program *Asman*, the journalism talk-show *Zloe Pero* and Internews bulletin.

## **Tajikistan**

### *Website*

Internews bulletin editor Rukhshona Olimova and Internews webmaster Umed Mardonov continued to update Internews website regularly with media developments and news about Internews activities in Tajikistan.

### *Bulletins*

Nov. 26, the sixth edition of Internews media bulletin went online containing information about Internews activities and media developments in Tajikistan. The bulletin contained an interview with Oleg Panfilov concerning the media situation in Tajikistan and an article about journalism and gender issues.

### *Internet Connectivity for Tajik Independent TV stations*

Nov. 4-7, Internews arranged a seminar on internet and e-mail literacy to electronic media professionals. Andrei Kovalenko and Rukhshona Olimova served as trainers. Eight employees from TV stations in southern Tajikistan participated. As a result of the seminar, stations are now sending their edit lists to Internews producers via e-mail, and likewise are corresponding with Internews staff and each other, exchanging news and information.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Website*

The website [www.internews.uz](http://www.internews.uz) has been re-launched; Internews Uzbekistan's computer specialists continue working on the website. The English version of Internews Uzbekistan's website ([www.internews.uz](http://www.internews.uz)) continues to be available. System administrators are currently working on the Uzbek and Russian versions. The website of Zamon ([www.zamon.uz](http://www.zamon.uz)) will soon reflect the new format of Zamon.

### *Internews Uzbekistan's Bulletin, "Herald TV"*

Internews Uzbekistan's Bulletin, *Herald TV* appears three times monthly. Some highlights from this quarter include:

- An interview with Zakhiriddin Kasimov, Leading Specialist of the State Committee for Radio Frequencies with the Uzbek Agency for Communication and Informatization. On Sept. 8-10, Bishkek hosted a multilateral meeting of CIS country representatives devoted to the development of digital broadcasts. The European agreement on radio broadcasts on 174-230 and 470-862 MHz signed in Stockholm in 1961 only covered Europe. A significant part of the Soviet Union—the Asian areas—was not covered, which has caused numerous problems and created limitations.
- An article called "Who Needs the Club, or We are Strong When We are Together" by Gayane Oganova. There are currently three journalist clubs set up in Uzbekistan, thanks to the financial support of the Soros Foundation. These clubs are Reporter, which unites journalists based in the provinces of Bukhara and Navoi; Khamkor, uniting journalists in the Ferghana Valley; and Muloka which is for journalists based in the provinces of Surkhandaria and Kashkadaria.

- An article about the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers #148 on Registration of Mass Media in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This decree replaced the #160. The article compares the two decrees and highlights changes.
- Analysis of an article entitled “Censorship is Dead! Long Live Censorship!” by Alisher Taksanov of the Committee for Freedom of Speech and Expression. The article published by the website of the Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations is about Uzbek cyberspace and Uzbek Internet providers who ban access to certain websites by redirecting Internet users who want to visit a banned website to other websites, usually, the MSN Search. However, as the editor of *the Herald TV* found out, much of the information in the article is not true. For instance, Taksanov writes that the French Embassy in Tashkent formally complained to its provider about the inaccessibility of certain websites. The Embassy only inquired why it happened, and did not file any formal complaints. Taksanov did not inform the Embassy that he was going to use this information in his article. It is not the first time that representatives of the Committee for Freedom of Speech and Expression manipulated facts. Unfortunately, at the French Embassy’s request, *the Herald TV* did not publish all the results of its editor’s investigation.
- An article entitled “Thinking Buddies, Thinking...” presented the many opinions held by journalists about so-called media counsels.
- Information about a new guidebook entitled “Basics of Reporting, Writing and Editing Information for Independent Newspaper” by George Krinsky;
- An article entitled “It is Neither Interesting nor Profitable to be Alike” about radio stations in Tashkent that started paying greater heed to the voice of Internews. Internews had long been trying to convince the stations to stick to their formats saying that by sticking to their format, the stations would be able to attract more advertisers and right advertiser. *The Herald TV* interviewed Svetlana Khon, Director of Radio Grande, who said that financial crises caused by poor management and not sticking to their format that muddled all FM stations in Tashkent together made the stations think of serious reforms.
- An article entitled “The Goal of the Media is to Make Money” that profiles how and why Orbita TRC set up an advertising agency of its own. The station needed to hire more journalists, but could not afford to do so because once a staff hits more than 14 members, much higher taxes are levied. To solve this problem, the station set up an advertising agency of its own and transferred its advertising specialists to the agency. Now the station has two legal entities each having less than 14 people in staff.
- Tatiana Yakovleva, journalist and editor of *Herald TV*, had been given confidential documents declaring that the Agency for Copyrights of Uzbekistan granted the Youth TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Andizhan (MTRK Andizhan) exclusive rights to re-broadcast the Russian channel Ren-TV in Uzbekistan. Surprisingly, the Russian channel did not seem to know anything about it. Yakovleva’s inquiries in the newsletter looked into the issues of whether (a) independent TV stations and cable studios in Uzbekistan *were indeed* informed by the MTRK Andizhan back in August, 2003 that they had to stop re-broadcasting Ren-TV; (2) the MTRK Andizhan and the closed corporation Cable Television of Uzbekistan *do* have an authority to demand that the stations and studios

stop re-broadcasting the Russian channel, and if they *do*, who gave them the authority; and (3) the Agency for Copyrights of Uzbekistan is authorized to grant exclusive rights to re-broadcast Russian channels to any entities in Uzbekistan without the Russian channels' formal permission. Yakovleva brought in experts in the national and international law as well as Russian lawyers in on her investigation.

Yakovleva's investigation was followed up later in the month with documentation that showed that on July 10, 2003, the Youth TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Andizhan *did* sign a contract with the Russian channel Ren-TV for exclusive rights to re-broadcast this channel in Uzbekistan. As Naira Papanyan, head of Ren-TV's department of commercial broadcasts said, "All the channel cares about is their partners' creditworthiness". Naturally, neither side agreed to reveal any details about figures in their contract. Now, the Youth TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Andizhan has a right to issue sub-licenses to other Uzbek broadcasters.

- On Sept. 27, 2003, the Cabinet Minister of Uzbekistan issued Decree #413 on Introducing Amendments to the Decree on Licensing in the Sphere of Telecommunications. The amendments refer to the Decree # 458 on Measures to Improve the System of Administration in the Field of Telecommunication and Postal Service of Nov. 22, 2000. *Herald TV* called on its readers to submit questions that will then be offered to an expert/representative of the Uzbek Agency for Communication and Informatization.

#### *Bulletin: Freedom of Speech*

Yakovleva, in cooperation with designer Tatiana Gez, started working on the format of the bulletin *Erkin Soz* or *Freedom of Speech*. This bulletin is financed by the Soros Foundation as part of their press monitoring project directed by Internews Deputy Director Karim Bakhriev.

The information and analytical newsletter *Freedom of Speech* is published at the initiative of the representative office of Internews Network in Uzbekistan, and financed by Soros-Budapest under its project called "Enhancing Legal Activism among Journalists." The newsletter mostly focuses on information law. Karim Bakhriev, Deputy Director of Internews Uzbekistan and lawyer, and Bakhtyor Shakhnazarov, Internews Uzbekistan's OSCE-funded lawyer, contribute articles to the newsletter on a regular basis. Two issues of *Freedom of Speech* appeared in December, 2003

#### *Bulletin: Alternative*

The first edition of the bulletin *Alternative* under the Drug Demand Reduction Project (DDRP) was issued in November. The goal of the bulletin is to profile the five partners under DDRP -- a project aimed at reducing demand for drugs and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Tatiana Yakovleva, Editor of bulletins *Herald TV* and *Alternative*, will publish the bulletin and distribute it to both international organizations and the population groups targeted by DDRP.

In December, *Alternative* was devoted to the work of Population Services International (PSI), one of the partners of DDRP.

#### *Website*

Internews' weekly news program *Zamon* is now available on the Internet. Internews' computer specialists as well as *Zamon* producers will continue to update the site on a weekly basis.

## **Global Internet Policy Initiative (GIPI)**

### **Kazakhstan**

GIPI in Kazakhstan prepared in November for a Round Table “Administrative Barriers for Telecommunication Development in Kazakhstan.” Intended participants include: Sergey Yemelyanov, Commercial Director, Ducat company; Dr. Malishevskiy, Vice-Rector, Almaty Institute of Power Engineering and Telecommunication; Representatives of KCell company; Vladimir Yakunin, Vitelco company; Representatives of Almaty Entrepreneurs’ Association; Representatives of Kazakhtelecom; Representatives of KazKommerz Securities; Representatives of Nursat company; Members of Parliament; Representatives of Regulatory Agencies etc.

On Dec. 18, GIPI held a press-conference at the National Press Club in Almaty for domestic and foreign mass media on a “Declaration Regarding the Draft Law which will Limit Foreign Shares of the Telecommunication Companies in Kazakhstan.”

Participants included: Radilda Khasenov, National Telecommunication Association of Kazakhstan, President, Sofiya Issenova, Internews Network Kazakhstan, Lawyer, Coordinator of GIPI project, Mark Saidenfeld, Ducat company, General Director, Iskander Erimbetov, Kar-Tel company, General Director, and Yury Maltzev, White & Case legal company, Partner.

The press conference covered the issues raised by the draft law “on national security” and “on communications” that foreign shares of telecommunication companies will be limited by 49% for reasons of national security, to protect the interests of domestic producers and based on international experience. Opponents of the draft argue that all actors in the telecommunications market in Kazakhstan honor Kazakhstan’s national security and that such limitations can undermine the confidence of foreign investors as well as the investment climate in the republic as a whole.

As a result of the press conference, at a government session on December 29<sup>th</sup> in Astana, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan declared that there is no need to limit foreign shares in all spheres of telecommunications. “It is necessary to study this issue more carefully,” declared Prime Minister Danial Akhmatov. “And if we are talking about national security we have to consider only long-haul communications. At the same time the rest of telecommunication sphere should be competitive.”

### *Website blocking in Kazakhstan*

At the request of Julien Pain, Bureau Internet/Internet desk of Reporters sans Frontiers/Reporters without Borders GIPI prepared a review of cases of web-site blocking in Kazakhstan including possible reasons, mechanisms and consequences and provided an interview with the chief editor of the Internet newspaper *Navigator* ([www.navi.kz](http://www.navi.kz)).

### *Advocacy and consultative meetings*

On the issues of draft laws in the sphere of telecommunications consultative meeting were held out (with lawyers of KCell Company and Director of City Net Company), request to the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding working group in Mazhilis on draft law On Communications was submitted.



Consultations regarding tariff changes were carried out for the following companies:

- S&G Company (Internet provider), Aelina Bagautdinova, Director (Almaty);
- Unicom Com Company (Pavlodar).

## **Uzbekistan**

### *E-commerce (recognition of electronic contracts and digital signatures)*

GIPI is working with the Uzbek Parliament on the process of drafting and adopting a new law on electronic digital signatures as well as a new version of the law “on informatization.” GIPI is working with parliamentary members reviewing the draft laws. GIPI insists on avoiding implementation of an EDS system based only on one technology – open and private keys pairs as expressed in the current draft.

GIPI obtained the first version of the draft law “on electronic documents turnover” and “on electronic commerce,” which are not officially published yet and for which GIPI is preparing commentary. The draft laws allow the use of any means of electronic signature, not only key pairs. GIPI’s commentary and recommendation will be submitted to parliament for review.

### *Balanced Cyber Crime Legislation*

GIPI organized a roundtable discussion on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> called “Improving Legislation on Cyber Crimes in the Republic of Uzbekistan.” Attendees included parliament members, cabinet minister officers, and representatives of the Internet community in Uzbekistan. The roundtable discussion was organized by GIPI in conjunction with UNDP Digital Development Initiative Program. GIPI prepared a framework for the regulation of cyber crimes.

## **Component 1.4: Enhanced Support for Print**

### OVERALL SITUATION:

The year 2003 ended with mixed signals for the independent print media of Central Asia.

In Kazakhstan, the lower house of parliament approved a new media law that would give the government even more power than it currently wields over the independent press. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the long-awaited unveiling of a U.S.-sponsored printing press to offset the government monopoly was quickly mired in controversy when a major client backed away. The intimidated press of Uzbekistan remained largely silent in the face of a worsening economic situation and deteriorating relations with neighbors. In Tajikistan, a government effort to stifle outspoken newspapers was offset as the new year opened by a presidential move that could result in needed tax relief for the heavily burdened private press.

In this latter development, Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rakhmonov has instructed relevant ministries to review the tax situation with a view to freeing private papers from some payments that the press complains have made it almost impossible for them to become financially self-sufficient. This is a breakthrough in an eight-month-old campaign by independent newspaper publishers, initiated after they returned from an observation visit to Kazakhstan, organized by

Internews and ICFJ in March 2003. Kazakhstan has given its press a moratorium on VAT payments and does not tax newspapers on the basis of circulation, as is the practice in Tajikistan.

This recent overture by the government in Dushanbe could be viewed as a “carrot” to convince outspoken voices in the press to mute their recent criticism, at least until the tax issue is resolved. It should be noted that most privately owned papers in Tajikistan feel free to complain about deteriorating public services in the country but avoid criticizing the government directly. Only two newspapers have crossed that line, and one, *Ruzi Nav*, had to temporarily cease publication in November when the government printing press refused to publish it.

If the new media bill in Kazakhstan becomes law, the Ministry of Information would have nearly unlimited powers to suspend a media organization's operations. It also spells out certain functions that media organizations must perform under monitoring by the Ministry of Information – a requirement that critics fear could be used to deny registration to media outlets that anger the government.

Final government action in both the Tajikistan and Kazakhstan cases is not expected until the spring.

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITY:

ICFJ and Internews conducted 20 training programs in Central Asia in CY-03 and a total of 27 since the partnership launched print media training in the region in mid-2002. The original agreement with USAID called for a minimum of 12 training programs over the two-year period of the contract. (See Appendix A)

The fourth quarter of the year was dominated by the “road show” series of brief, intensive workshops for early-career journalists in regional cities. Training programs were conducted in nine cities for journalists from 14 cities in three countries. The training, conducted by George Krinsky, Central Asian press adviser, focused on imparting the fundamentals of information-based journalism to the new generation of print media professionals in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. A total of 101 journalists from 51 newspapers, two news Web sites and two television stations took part and successfully completed the seminars in the three countries. (See Appendix B)

Three seminars scheduled for Uzbekistan as part of the “road show” series were postponed because of illness incurred by the trainer, and were tentatively rescheduled for January-February 2004.

In concert with the “road show” series, ICFJ and Internews began distribution of the Russian-language version of a new handbook for Central Asian journalists – “The Fundamentals of Reporting, Writing and Editing for Independent Newspapers.” authored by George Krinsky. The handbook was first published on Internews Web sites, and later in book form.

A Kyrgyz-language version was completed in December, and translators were commissioned for the three other indigenous languages.

Meanwhile, a second handbook was completed for Central Asia on the fundamentals of newspaper management and financial sustainability. The book, titled “A Path Toward

Independence: Principles of Newspaper Management for Central Asia,” is the work of John C. Ronald, an Indiana publisher who also serves as an ICFJ consultant.

Work also is set to begin on a third manual, on the coverage of business and economic news. ICFJ has contracted with Anya Schiffrin to be the manual’s author. Schiffrin, director of journalism programs for the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), led an effort in Almaty last November to present a workshop titled “Covering Resource Wealth: A Workshop for Reporters.”

ICFJ supported the IPD workshop with a \$3,000 subgrant. A narrative report about the workshop and a financial statement detailing how the subgrant was used accompanies this report (Appendices B and C). ICFJ signed a letter of agreement with the Kazakhstan Press Club in Almaty, when it transferred the subgrant to the press club. The club was IPD’s Almaty-based partner in presenting the November workshop. A signed copy of the agreement is contained in Appendix D.

ICFJ also has submitted to Internews a work plan, budget and travel plan for print training activities to be undertaken between January and June 2004. The slate of five training programs plus supplemental projects will be financed with approximately \$120,000 that remained as of December 31 in ICFJ’s subgrant from Internews.

The programs for 2004 will be launched with the “Road Show” for Uzbekistan, referenced above. In February, there also will be a training program in Astana to include investigative reporting skills for print journalists. ICFJ is providing narrative and budget details for these programs and others to follow in a separate narrative proposal and budget dispatched to Internews Arcata on January 14, 2004.

### Summary Report

on the

### **“Road Show” Seminars on Basic Journalism**

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan

September-December 2003

SITE	DATE	NO. of PARTICIPANTS
Semey, Kazakhstan	September 8-9	13 *
Aktobe, Kazakhstan	October 20-21	12
Uralsk, Kazakhstan	October 23-24	11 **
Atyrau, Kazakhstan	October 27-28	19
Karabalta, Kyrgyzstan	November 3-4	11 ***
Karakol, Kyrgyzstan	November 6-7	10
Osh, Kyrgyzstan	November 11-12	11 ****
Khojand, Tajikistan	December 4-5	8
Dushanbe, Tajikistan	December 11-12	6 *****

- \* Including two journalists from Kurchatov, KZ
- \*\* Including one journalist from Aksai, KZ
- \*\*\* Including three journalists from Belavodsk, KG
- \*\*\*\* Including three journalists from Jalalabat, KG
- \*\*\*\*\* Including two journalists from Korguntube, TJ

**NOTE:**

All journalists taking part in the nine seminars were first-time participants in ICFJ/Internews programs, and approximately 85 per cent of them had not previously taken part in a professional training program since their countries achieved independence 12 years ago. But 40 per cent of the participating newspapers had been previously represented in ICFJ/Internews programs.

## **COVERING RESOURCE WEALTH: A WORKSHOP FOR REPORTERS**

### **ICFJ co-sponsorship of a training effort serving Kazakhstan's business journalists**

*The International Center for Journalists allocated \$3,000 of its existing program funds – already earmarked to support training in business and economic journalism in Kazakhstan – for the co-sponsorship of this workshop, administered in Nov. 16-18, 2003 in Almaty. “Covering Resource Wealth” was sponsored by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, a network of economists and social scientists based at Columbia University.*

### ***Program Activities in Support of Objective Two (To engage citizens in the democratic process through increased availability of useful and credible information)***

#### **Component 2.1 - Production Funds for Public Interest Programming**

##### **Kazakhstan**

In December, with the assistance of the US Embassy and USAID, Internews received the equipment that was sitting in the customs department's storage warehouse for three months. The equipment, three cameras and three non-linear edit systems, microphones and lighting kits, were awarded to TV ART in Karaganda, which, now that they have shooting and editing equipment, can begin production of news programming for broadcast on TV ART and Channel 29 in Temirtau. We decided not to send equipment (camera and player) to Channel 31 (Karaganda) as in October 2003, there was a theft of already awarded equipment (computer with a non-linear edit system). The station director only sent in December an official letter informing us of the incident.

As this station could not keep the first shipment of equipment safe, we have given the decision to the production fund jury commission to decide where the remainder of the equipment should go. The next jury meeting will take place in mid-January.

In December, shooting and editing equipment was purchased for the station Aktsent (Lisakovsk) in the amount of \$9000USD. Internews would also like to purchase a stronger transmitter for the station to widen the viewership of these programs. In addition, the station is also completing a grant in which they are producing analytical news programs.

Currently in progress is a grant to the newspaper *Razniye ii Ravnii* in Ust-Kamenogorsk, a grant to create an Internet informational portal in the city of Aktyubinsk, in conjunction with NAT/KZ, and to TV Otyrar (Shymkent) to create a studio to translate films and programs into Kazakh language.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### *Production Fund News*

In October, Internews proceeded with the fourth round of its Production Fund program to stimulate the production of quality programs and articles covering health issues and promoting a healthy lifestyle. From an application pool of 24 proposals from media outlets, production studios and freelance journalists all over the country, an expert commission selected 12 projects for funding. The results, which were announced in November, include:

- **Journalist ? axim ?limenko**, "Life of regional NGOs" (monthly articles in the newspapers *Moya Stolitsa* and *Tribuna* Total: 24 articles over six months);
- **Journalist Mavluda Isakova**, "Brucellosis or healthy gene pool" (production and broadcasting TV programs and a video clip by Leilek TV and Radio studio, Total: 5 TV programs over six months);
- **Journalist Gulchechak Gafarova**, "Let's remain healthy" (monthly articles in the newspapers *Osh Janyrygy* and *Ekho Osha* Total: 12 articles over six months);
- **Director of "MONO Adv." Ltd., M. Bayazova**, "Production of a video clip devoted to prophylaxis of tuberculosis" (Total: 1 video clip, length: 45 seconds);
- **President of TV/Radio Company Pyramida A. Bynazarov**, "Be healthy" (twice a month the TV program will be produced and broadcast, with a mandatory repetition after one week. Each program lasts 30 minutes. Total: 12 programs over six months);
- **Journalist Li Lorya**, "Health protection reform: problems and perspectives". (1 page monthly for six months in the newspaper *MSN*. Total: 6 pages);
- **Journalist Sobirbek Miktibekov**, "Healthy person is healthy future" (monthly 2-3 articles in the newspapers *Ata-jurt*, *Shahter Jolu*, *Batken Tany* over the course of six months. Total: 15 articles);
- **Editor-in-chief of Kutbilim newspaper, K. Chekirov**, "Lessons on health" (monthly articles in the newspaper *Kutbilim* over the course of six months. Total: 20 articles).
- **Rector of Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University V. Nifadiev**, "Students for a healthy way of life" (5 video clips (1-1.5 minutes each) will be distributed by KTR TV for six months on the program *Domashnya Aptechka*);
- **Journalist Anara Beksultanova**, "Help yourself" (monthly article in the newspaper *MSN* over the course of four months. Total: 6 articles);
- **Director of TV Company Antenn TV, I. Idyrov**, "Esculap" (four month production and broadcast of a weekly program *Esculap*. Length 20 minutes.
- **Editor of Mezgil Unuu newspaper, T. Ismailov**, "Health of a healthy person. Everyday advice" (monthly articles in the newspaper *Mezgil Unuu*. Total: 12 articles over the course of six months.

### *Production Campaigns*

On Oct. 18 and 25, the two parts of the documentary film *Faceless*, about the trafficking of women produced by International Organization of Migration (IOM) and Internews was broadcast on the independent channel Pyramida. In November, Pyramida also broadcast a debate about trafficking in its weekly talk-show *Nashoe Vremia* sponsored by NDI.

On Nov. 1 and 10, the two parts of the film were broadcast on the State channel KTR. The film received good coverage with interviews of the author Dinara Suimalieva in newspapers like *Moya Stolitsa*, *Limon* and *Zamandash*. Suimalieva was also separately invited by the US Embassy, Interpol and Ministry of Internal Security to comment her film and answer questions about the human trafficking problem.

From Dec. 16-22, Internews Production Fund coordinator Adelia Laisheva traveled to the south of the country to oversee projects supported by Internews' production fund given to seven grant recipients:

- Journalist Gulchechak Gafarova (Osh) signed an agreement for the project, "Let's remain healthy," consisting of monthly articles in the newspapers Osh *Janyrygy* and *Ekho Osha*;
- Journalist Baktygul Nadyralieva (Osh) completed a project called, "Anatomy of Poverty," a series of articles outlining reasons for poverty and ways to solve the issue published in the newspaper *Erkin-Too*;
- Mezon TV (Osh) completed a project called, "I Found My Way," consisting of three documentaries, and "Democracy Begins When Children's Rights are Observed," a cycle of PSAs on children's rights;
- Osh TV (Osh) began a project entitled, "The Way Out," a series of 12 TV programs about drug addiction;
- Radio Almaz-Iug (Osh) began a project, "Corridor to Abyss," a series of radio programs about the struggle with drug addiction;
- *Mezgil Unuu Newspaper* (Jalalabad) signed an agreement for the project entitled, "Health of a Healthy Person: Everyday Advice," a series of articles;
- Journalist Sobirbek Miktibekov (Isfana) signed an agreement for the project, "A Healthy Person is a Healthy Future," a series of articles in the newspapers *Ata-Jurt*, *Shahter Jolu*, and *Batken Tany*.

### **Tajikistan**

The last round of the production fund took place in November. Of the 30 submitted proposals, four were chosen by the jury. Radio Asia Plus and TV Gulibodom will be given equipment to set up production studios to create programming on social issues. TV Jahonoro will be granted a set of equipment to produce educational and informational youth programming, and journalist Nargiz Zokirova will receive a cash grant to write and publish articles on economic issues in Tajikistan.

Nov. 26, Mukhtor Boqizoda was given the second part of a grant for monitoring of journalists' rights in Tajikistan.

Nov. 26, Salimakhon Vahhobzade Hokimmurodov was given the second part of a grant for promoting legal literacy through a series of newspaper articles.

Nov. 25 – 28, a group of students from Aga Khan Humanities Project from Bishkek, Khorog, Osh, and Dushanbe that had participated in a one month film course in Dom Kino in Dushanbe used Internews equipment in order to edit their final product, a short film.

### *New Internews Projects:*

Internews was recently awarded a \$100,000 project from the Christensen Foundation to lead a two-country survey of existing archives, to assess the contents, accessibility and state of preservation of regional music and verbal art texts and performance collections, both recorded and transcribed, in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. This project may be further developed to consider ways in which cultural archives can be used to supply original materials to local broadcasters.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Production Funds*

In October, Jakhongir Nakhanov, Production Fund Director, oversaw implementation of the following grants awarded during the fourth round of Production Fund competitions:

1. Alena Aminova, who is producing a 15-minute documentary film called “Captives of the Tuberculosis Bacillus;”
2. Matluba Yusupova, who is producing PSAs on Andizhan Province TV and Radio Company covering the following topics: drug addiction, alcohol, smoking, healthy lifestyle, family, women and children’s health, and anemia;
3. Ilkhom Nasirov and Bakhtyor TV, who are producing a 30-minute weekly program called *Jizzak and Jizzak Residents*;  
Sakhbijon Bazarov, who is producing six documentary films about and for the young generation;  
Jamshid Zakirov and Navruz Radio, who are producing a weekly cycle of 24 15-minute programs called “Children Who Need Help;” Tamara Prokopyeva and Orbita TRC, who is producing a children’s program called *In Secret*.  
Zufarjon Sultanov and the Ferghana Province Radio, who are producing a monthly 20-minute program called *Erkin Fikr* (Free Opinion);  
Victor Sapiro and Chirchik TV, who are producing a bi-monthly program called *Legal Courier*;  
Agzam Usmanov and Aloka AK, who are producing a program called *Legal Society* three times a month. The show will deal with The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Constitutional rights and all other rights and liberties supposedly available to Uzbek citizens.

In November, Nakhanov edited the pilot program *Jizzak and Jizzak Residents* produced by Bakhtyor TV in Jizzak. The program is about unemployment and trafficking of women. The piece starts with a trail of Lilya and Bakhtyor Akhmedov, founders of a firm that trafficked young women to the United Arab Emirates for prostitution. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2,080 women have been trafficked to other countries. Criminal proceedings have been started against four private companies that are suspected of trafficking in people. The station continues working on the program.

In November, Nakhanov provided consultations for Mekhri Karimova on her program *What Do They Do in Winter?* about massive unemployment in the Saikhon Makhalla where the majority of young people are unemployed.

The station Bekobod Oynai Jakhoni in Bekabad has been negligent in completing the programming it promised to do in order to receive production fund equipment. The equipment was taken back and is now being used by freelance journalists in the same town in order to contribute to Zamon. It is Internews' hope that these journalists will soon open up their own private TV station.

Jamshid Zakirov of Navruz Radio has produced a number of jingles and the first 12-minute program in the cycle *Children Who Need Help*. The first program was about a 15-year-old teenager serving his prison term at a child colony for theft. He had been abandoned by his mother who married a foreigner and left for Russia. Left alone, he became a member of a group of thieves. He was convicted and sentenced to two years in a children's penal colony. Zakirov decided to produce one or two more programs before the radio station starts airing them.

Zufarjon Sultanov of Ferghana Province Radio produced the first 20-minute program in the cycle *Erkin Fikr* (Free Opinion). The program was about early marriages. Girls in Ferghana Valley are married away at the age of 15-17. The program's subject is a 17-year-old girl. The first time she saw her future husband was at their wedding ceremony. Her life in the new family started with accusations that her dowry was too meager. She was routinely beaten by her husband and she lost her baby in a miscarriage. Nakhanov edited the program and provided consultations.

Sayora Ruzikulova and Eleonora. Baltayeva of Radio Grande completed their project *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in November 2003. Nakhanov believes that the project was successful. The cycle consisted of 48 programs aired twice a week with reruns on the following day, in both Russian and Uzbek languages. In total, there were 192 airings over the past six months. All 33 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were covered. The articles were elaborated and commented on by lawyers, law enforcement agents, and public education and healthcare experts.

Sharafiddin Tulegenov continues to produce his program *Religious Conditions in Uzbekistan*. The latest program aired the opinions of Hizb-ut-Tahrir party members and wahabists convicted for their membership in the religious movements. Some of the men said they regretted their association with the movements, but others stayed loyal to their religion. It is the first time subject matter of this sort has been aired by a state radio station. The program also included an interview with a famous and respected theologian Mukhammad Sadik Mukhammad Yusuf. Including him in the broadcast was risky. He has been kept away from any broadcasts in Uzbekistan for almost ten years. At the request of the audience, the program was repeated three times. It is a significant breakthrough for a state radio station.

Director of Production Center Jakhongir Nakhanov held a residency on 10-12 Dec., at Aloka AK TV station in Gulistan to help them with the production of their talk show that dealt with partnerships of condominium owners. (Condominium associations are a relatively new force in Uzbek life.) The talk show covered legal issues related to such partnerships. The 30-minute program was moderated by Lobar Kaynarova. According to her, viewers called and said that many of them had not known about their rights as owners of their condominiums. Nakhanov is presently reviewing the script of the second program in the cycle.

### *Success Stories*

On 10-12 Dec. 2003, Aloka AK TV station in Gulistan aired a talk show under a Production Fund grant that dealt with partnerships of condominium owners, including legal issues related to them.



Viewers called her and said that many of them had not known about their rights as owners of their condominiums.

On 27 Dec. 2003, Bakhtyor TV in Jizzak aired program #7 of Mekhri Karimova's cycle about unemployment. According to Karimova, the audience liked the program despite poor quality of the shooting. Local government officials had refused to give interviews for any of the first six programs in the cycle, but Deputy Hokim of Jizzak gave an interview for the program #7. Immediately after the interview, the Hokimiyat of Jizzak ruled that local makhalla committees (self-governance bodies) must start setting up mini-works to create new jobs.

### *Network Development*

Internews negotiated with the transmitter manufacturer in Novosibirsk on the compilation of measuring equipment suites. Rinat Shamsutdinov, Network Technical Director and Damira Kurbanova, Network Programming Director, visited all the member stations analyzing all technical details (including available equipment, mast aerials, etc.) as well as each station's programming, hoping to find materials that would be suitable for the whole network.

In Kokand, Margilan, Andizhan and Namangan, Shamsutdinov explored transmitting stations and looked for good sites for the new transmitters. He also negotiated with the TV stations' technical staff and local government structures that deal with transmitters and frequencies for the imminent installation of the network's equipment. Shamsutdinov pointed out the poor placement at certain premises for transmitters and designated a timeframe for when the flaws should be eliminated.

Network specialists and Internews Uzbekistan's management wrote official letters to the Center for Electromagnetic Compatibility as well as the State Committee for Radio Frequencies. Only after Internews receives an approval from these two organizations can the Uzbek Agency for Communication and Information issue a license for the network's frequencies as well as issue approval for the import of transmitters from Novosibirsk.

In November, Shamsutdinov visited stations Orbita TRC (Angren) and Chirchik TV (Chirchik) in order to inspect their transmitters and other equipment. He also spoke with the stations' technical staff about the installation of antennas, feeders, and transmitters. Shamsutdinov found flaws with the transmitter room and set a deadline for repair and maintenance with the stations' staff.

Shamsutdinov also held negotiations with the Center for Electromagnetic Compatibility and the State Committee for Radio Frequencies. He familiarized the two organizations' officials with the details of the project to build a private TV network. The officials informed Shamsutdinov of their organization's requirements; Shamsutdinov generated and submitted all the documents related to the import of transmitters and related equipment.

Shamsutdinov also found out all the formalities related to licenses for radio frequencies and TV broadcasting. The issue of the ownership of the Network's transmitters, antennas and feeders was resolved.

In addition, Shamsutdinov negotiated, by phone and e-mail, with the transmitter manufacturer in Novosibirsk, Russia.

Shamsutdinov consulted and negotiated with station directors regarding technical issues and issues related to licenses for radio frequencies and channels as well as informed them of the status of the negotiations with the Uzbek government for importing the transmitters in Uzbekistan.

Shamsutdinov and Khalida Anarbaeva, Managing Director of Internews Uzbekistan, twice met with Zakhid Kasimov, representative of the State Committee for Radio Frequencies, to discuss details – both legal and logistical – of importing the transmitters in Uzbekistan. Kasimov also promised to give Internews the grid detailing the distribution of radio frequencies in Uzbekistan.

Shamsutdinov received a permission to import two transmitters: one for Orbita TRC in Angren and one for the station in Bekabad. Shamsutdinov and lawyer Farid Abdrshin, collaborated on the contract with Astronika, the transmitter manufacturer, for the two transmitters.

### *Network Marketing and Technical Support*

Vsevolod Payevsky, Internews Uzbekistan's Marketing Consultant, secured four advertising contracts for independent TV stations participating in the Network project:

1. A contract for 400,000 Uzbek soums from ZdravPlus for Mulokot TV (Kokand);
2. A contract for 289,000 Uzbek soums from Impra Tea for Mulokot TV (Kokand);
3. A contract for 290,000 Uzbek soums from Zdravplus for Margilan TV (Margilan);
4. A contract for 300,000 Uzbek soums from Oz'lotto for Orbita TRC (Angren).

Payevsky is preparing to launch an audience research campaign for independent TV stations. He has already generated necessary statistics about the targeted provinces and found interviewers. The research is will help guide programming decisions for the Network.

## **Component 2.3 - Thematic Journalism Training**

### **Kyrgyzstan**

On Nov. 17-27 in Bishkek, Internews organized a seminar on “coverage of special social issues - investigation techniques”. Trainers included Russian journalist Mary Nazary and cameraman Ilya Kor. Fourteen journalists and cameramen from independent TV stations in Bishkek, Karakol and Osh participated. After three days dedicated to analysis of their works and to theory, participants went into the field to prepare reports on social issues. The result of their work was included in a special issue of the program *Door*. Internews producer Mirlan Kimsanov and journalist Saatbek Egemberdiev were among participants in the seminar.

### **Tajikistan**

#### *Seminars on Covering Issues of Trafficking*

On Nov. 10, Internews in cooperation with IOM held a general seminar on trafficking issues aiming at giving media professionals in southern Tajikistan a better knowledge of issues involved in covering trafficking. The seminar was held in Dushanbe with trainers Nigina Mamadjanova and Muzaffar Zaripov from IOM. Participants included Daler Nurkhanov (executive director Asia Plus), Daler Amanov (director of Radio Vatan), Habib Maqbulov (director of TV Regar), Khayriddin Zuhurov (director of TV TadAz), and Rustam Yusupov (director of TV Subh).

On Nov. 11 - 14, Internews coordinated a workshop on Public Service Announcement/jingle production for radio to stimulate the creation of radio jingles focused on the issues of trafficking of persons. Trainer Pavel Jdanko held the workshop for six participants from three Tajik radio

stations (Radio Vatan, Asia Plus, and Radio Tiroz). Over the course of the workshop, participants created eight radio jingles focused on trafficking. Participants included Alina Mahkamov and Nasim Shoymuradov from *Asia Plus*, Dilshod Azlizade and Manuchehr Hikmatov from *Radio Vatan*, and Petr Elin and Dilshod Yuldashev from *Radio Tiroz*.

December 4, Internews held a general seminar on trafficking for media professionals in the Sughd province. Negina Mamadjanova from IOM served as trainer, and among the participants were Ilhom Hoshimov (TV SM-1), Isoboy Usmanov (TV Jahonoro), Bahrom Boboev (TV Isfara), Hamza Shyukurov (TV Ghulakandoz), and Rustam Khojaev (*Varorud*). The seminar aimed at providing media professionals in the north with basic information and knowledge about trafficking and how to better cover trafficking related issues.

December 11 – 21, Internews held a seminar on investigative journalism with a focus on covering trafficking issues. Erzhan Suleimanov from Channel 31 Almaty (Kazakhstan) trained participating journalists Hamza Shukurov (TV Ghulakandoz), Khoja Nazriev (TV Mawji Ozod), Khurshed Eshniyozov (Aziya Plus), Numon Ymarov (TV Gulibodom), Ilhom Hoshimov (TV SM-1), Rashid Hafizi (TRK Aziya), Khurshid Halimov (TV Regar), Dilafruz Murtazaeva (TVT), Nargiz Ziyoeva (TVT), and Abdulaziz Khalilov (TV Jahonoro). Participants produced three news stories focused on trafficking, focusing on the economic implications of traffic, on the legal rights of labor migrants and on the hardships of labor migrants.

## **Uzbekistan**

### *Drug Demand Reduction Program Seminar*

On Dec. 24-27, Internews Uzbekistan, in its cooperation with the Soros-Kazakhstan Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) held a seminar on covering drug demand reduction issues in the press. Participants included six journalists and four editors from ten newspapers from all over Uzbekistan. Issues covered in the seminar included: (a) how to get public officials to provide information, (b) how to write articles that work, and (c) how to involve the community in anti-drug campaigns. Oleg Mistafin, Chief Narcologist of the Uzbekistan National Narcology Center, provided participants with accurate first-hand information on drug use and drug addiction in Uzbekistan. The newspapers will rely on this information in writing their articles. In particular, Mistafin said that 75 percent of those HIV-infected in Uzbekistan are IV-drug users. Experts of the Tashkent office of OSI Assistance Foundation gave a talk about grant opportunities and proposal writing for DDRP related issues. Participants left the seminar pledging to produce greater coverage of drug related issues on a regular basis in their publications.

## **Component 2.4 - Co-Productions**

### News from *Aina* (Kazakhstan)

Each month, Internews produced four versions of the television journal *Aina*: two in Russian and two Kazakh language, with the total time of about one and a half hours and is distributed to 14 non-government stations in Kazakhstan.

### News from *Zamon* (Uzbekistan)

*Zamon* is currently restructuring its format so it will focus heavily on targeting and training key journalists, mostly freelancers within Uzbekistan to bring them to a much higher quality of research, script writing, shooting and editing. The show will be restructured to allow for beat reporting plus in-depth longer-format pieces. The new format was launched in mid-September.

#### *Fergana Valley News Exchange*

On Dec. 1-2, Internews Journalist Elima Djaparova and *Door* producer Mirlan Kimsanov participated in a work meeting organized by The Eurasia Foundation with media outlets from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to help them elaborate projects of partnership and news exchange in the Fergana Valley. The strongest projects will be awarded grants from The Eurasia Foundation.

#### *News from Open Asia.*

*Open Asia* continues to be produced weekly in Russian in Almaty, Kazakhstan and translated into local languages in the respective Central Asian offices.

#### *News from Asman*

On Oct. 30, Radio Retro (Bishkek) joined Internews radio news exchange program in Kyrgyzstan *Asman*:

Some examples of reports and news analysis stories from *Asman* this quarter include:

- a report from Batken about the construction of a power line which will solve electricity supply problems in the region;
- a report from Kara-Balta about temporary rise of flour and bread prices;
- a report from Batken about the economical developments in the region for the last four years;
- a report from Naryn about the problem of bribes that teachers take from students at Naryn State University;
- a report from Kara Balta about the dangers caused by use of old natural gas devices;
- a report from Karakol about the role of kindergartens, with views of educators and parents;
- a report from Karakol about the successful activities of an employment agency for young people;
- a report from Batken about the problem of gasoline supply in the south of the country;
- a report from Tokmok about taxi drivers who are coming from neighboring Kazakhstan to work in Tokmok where they don't pay taxes.

#### *News from Jarayon*

Mekhribon Saatova, Producer of the legal program *Jarayon*, has been working with an architect on the construction of the program's studio. Graphics for the show will be created by a Russian-based company represented by Natalya Goroshkova, former employee of Internews Russia, and Mikhail Spirov, former Chief Designer. Saatova is working with journalists based in Uzbekistan's provinces as well as Tashkent-based lawyers to find appropriate, interesting court cases for the program. Several cases that are being covered for the program include:

- Illegal Confiscation of Goods/Case of Entrepreneur Ozoda Kadirova;
- Testament/Will. A lonely old woman willed her house to a young man who looked after her before she died. But after her death, her relatives took the house;
- Consumer's Rights. A man bought a product cocoa at a shop, and the cocoa turned out to be of poor quality. He brought the receipt back for a refund, but the shop refused to take it back. He sued the shop for moral and material damages and was awarded 100,000 soums in moral damages, setting a precedent, according to the National Association of Consumers;
- Litigations between Condominium Owners and Zheks (government structures in charge of the supply of water, repairs, sanitation, etc). Condominium owners in Angren refused to pay for gas, water and other services which were not provided to them;
- Vaccine overdosing in a maternity home in Tashkent. In 2001, Natalya Vidikova gave birth to a healthy boy. Right before she left the maternity home, the baby was vaccinated against hepatitis and tuberculosis. However, a negligent nurse overdosed the anti-tuberculosis vaccine which resulted in an abscess. Vidikova sued and was awarded 100,000 Uzbek soums (less than 100 USD) in moral damages. According to experts, overdosing on a vaccine may lead to long term complications.

Khalida Anarbaeva, Managing Director of Internews Uzbekistan, also met with the managers of USAID's project "Training and Reforming the Judicial System," Jakhongir Khaidarov and Melanie Payser. They agreed to cooperate with *Jarayon* as legal experts. In exchange, Internews Uzbekistan will give them a copy of each new edition of *Jarayon* and they will use the copies during their trainings for local judges.

#### *News from Zloe Pero*

In October, Internews filmed the first issue of the program *Zloe Pero*. The 30-minute weekly talk-show gathers journalists to analyze their coverage of the news. Each week the producer/anchor of the program, Dinara Suimalieva chooses a hot topic and invites journalists who have covered it. One or two independent experts on that topic are also invited to participate in the discussion. Two or three short TV reports introduce the theme of the week and the questions or problems connected to it. A small audience is in attendance in a second studio and is allowed to make comments. The aim of the program is to generate a debate around the often criticized work of journalists, to give them an opportunity to explain their methods and positions, and - more generally - to analyze developments in the media field.

On Dec. 13 Internews' new talk-show *Zloe Pero* was broadcast for the first time in Bishkek on the independent TV station Pyramida. The theme of the first program was the so-called "2200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kyrgyz statehood." The 30-minute program is regularly broadcast on Pyramida every Saturday at 17:30. It has also been proposed to local independent stations. Many are interested and will begin broadcasting the program in January. Themes of the first issues include:

- *Zloe Pero* #1: "Is there a future for radio journalism in Kyrgyzstan?"
- *Zloe Pero* #2: "National security - threats and risks"
- *Zloe Pero* #3: "2200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kyrgyz statehood"
- *Zloe Pero* #4: Conflict between newspapers *Agym* and *Alaam*
- *Zloe Pero* #5: Problems of the new printing press established by Freedom House

*Some Sample Reports from the Region:*

From *Aina*, it is nearly impossible to learn the Kazakh language through the school curriculum. The number of Kazakh language classes in high schools is two times lower than the number of classes offered in primary schools. Officials, educators, linguists and citizens debate which language is more important in Kazakhstan (Kazakh or Russian), whether Kazakh should be introduced at once or gradually, and how to get people to learn Kazakh. Some argue that non-Kazakh speakers should not receive employment in state services, while others advise the state to not try and teach Kazakh to adults, but to focus on teaching the next generation.

From *Aina*, in Almaty, an experimental foster-care program. One hundred orphans were placed into foster care with families who are provided with remuneration. Though the foster care system is official, the state budget cannot support the program, and the program exists purely on the support of foreign donors.

From *Aina*, a story about privatization, Kazakh style. The communist party is initiating legal proceedings against the state over the issue of privatizations. Economists believe that privatization will not benefit anyone, yielding no dividends. Managers of privatization funds accuse the government of privatization's failure. The communists promise that they will receive dividends through their court proceedings. Parliamentary deputies try to win the public trust on this matter, creating images that they hope will help them win the next elections.

From *Aina*, blackmail, bribery and forgery are the main methods to become a deputy in Kazakhstan. In this year's elections, in Almaty, Journalists for Transparent and Fair Elections attempted to fight this tendency, recording the activities of election committees on video. Nonetheless, this did not stop violations. Both election observers and journalists believe that the September elections cannot be called fair.

From *Aina*, there is a greater tendency now to accuse Kazakhstani journalists of slander and insult. Individuals, particularly Kazakhstani officials, offended by critical articles in newspapers do not hesitate to use the court systems. Whereas these officials believe that their honor and dignity can be defended in court, legal experts attribute their misunderstanding to legal illiteracy. The Chardara newspaper *Osker Oner* has won all court cases brought against it by a school director and building contractors, after their investigations documented theft during the repair of the school.

From *Aina*, about the consequences of the US's dismantling of the military microbiology complex in Stepnogorsk, Kazakhstan and the ensuing brain-drain. As a result of the closure of what was formerly a complex for the production of biological weapons, only 14 specialists out of 800 remains employed – and this is only through US assistance. The Kazakh government is trying to create employment opportunity by establishing a biotechnology park on the base of the military production complex.

From *Aina*, about Kazakhstani field engineer battalions preparing for participation in the peacemaking mission in Iraq. The government considers that combat engineers will be safe in a country that is planted with mines. Already, over 300 mines and unexploded shells have been neutralized. Participating combat engineers will receive their salary triple of what they would be making in Kazakhstan. However, former veterans from the Afghanistan war are pessimistic, believing that soldiers' well being is a low priority consideration in such political maneuvers.

From *Aina*, about the staggering rates of suicide in Kazakhstan. Psychiatrists claim that Kazakhstan's statistics for suicide exceed all international norms. A nationwide scientific program is needed to determine the reasons for such high levels and to find solutions, however, only few scholars are engaged in the study of this problem.

From *Aina*, about the 10 year anniversary of the Kazakhstani national currency, the *tenge* and how national ideology is embodied in its design. Kazakhstan having no experience in running its own currency made an attempt to embody its national ideology through the design of its banknotes. At first, seven national heroes were represented on banknotes, however today, because of political currents, there is only the face of Al-Farabi, the scientist.

From *Aina*, a story about the party press in Kazakhstan. Political parties of Kazakhstan recruit journalists. TV ads try to recruit members to political parties. Journalists who are members of political parties stand up for the interests of their leaders in their material. Lecturers of journalism departments believe that they need to turn back to the past – to read special courses on party journalism. If there is party press, so there is a need for masters in political genre.

From *Aina*, a story about a campaign against smoking. In the attempt to curb poor health among the population and to stop the rising numbers of teenage smokers, some Kazakhstani legislators are trying to use the law to restrict the reach of tobacco marketers. Nonetheless, tobacco companies marketing tactics keep smokers smoking and attract new smokers.

From *Aina*, about a new law in Kazakhstan protecting the disabled, which yields practically no benefit to the disabled. The disabled now cannot go to a clinic, institute or theater without assistance. Requirements for special elevators and entrances for wheelchairs only exist on paper, but are not enforced. In general, social attitudes as well as the non-implementation of the republican program aimed at assisting the disabled, leads to difficulty in the lives of the disabled.

From *Aina*, about elections of local akims (governors). The post of the aul akim (village governor) is an honorary post without any real authority, official duties and command over local budgets. Citizens of two experimental villages confirmed this during the two years after the first elections of local authorities. As to be expected, however, the experiment was touted in Kazakhstan as proof of the successful development of Kazakhstan's society and of the elections of these officials.

From *Door*, a report about the life of a village at the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where people share a common electricity network. Power cuts in the Kyrgyz part of the village affect the Tajik one but inhabitants try to reach problems together in a peaceful way.

From *Door*, a report about a conflict situation around the illegal seizure of land in Bishkek's suburbs. A court decision ordered settlers who illegally built homes to return the land to their owners.

From *Door*, about numerous manholes which are uncovered in many places of Bishkek. Metal covers are stolen and then sold, causing danger for people walking on the pavement and for drivers.

From *Door*, a report about an incident at the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border on October 12. Two Uzbek citizens were killed and a Kyrgyz national wounded when Uzbek border guards attempted to stop people suspected of involvement in illegal cross-border cotton smuggling.

From *Door*, a story analyzing the problem of heating in Kara Balta and in particular, the case of families who don't have enough money to pay their heating bills.

From *Door*, a story about archeological finds in Issyk-Kul region. On his land, a man found old bones and pieces of objects that he is carefully cleaning and trying to identify by himself. There is no money to organize official archeological digs.

From *Door*, a report about a village school which was built 78 years ago for 120 pupils and is now housing 1,307 ones. Three children seat at a table made for one. Construction of an extension has been frozen. There is no electricity and no heating.

From *Door*, a report about the possible transfer of the big Bishkek container market Dordoi to Kazakhstan after a recent decision by Kyrgyz authorities to impose cash registers on all market sellers.

From *Door*, a report about members of the religious party Hizb ut-Tahrir with an exclusive interview of a woman ready to sacrifice her life for her husband who was jailed for spreading the party's ideas.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a story about the print media situation in Khujand. In the story citizens complained that few papers are outspookened enough, and one person said that none of the papers in nothern Tajikistan could be compared with *Nirui Sukhan* and *Ruzi Nav* (both based in Dushanbe). Others remarked that the situation today was very far from the situation in the beginning of the 1990s, and yet others remarked that self censorship was prevalent.

From *Nabzi Zindagi* a story about conscription. The draft began October 1st, and with it have come many problems, as few wish to serve in the military and many potential conscripts are not healthy enough to serve. This story features interviews with members of the medical comission in Vose, located in southern Tajikistan, who talk about the health of the conscripts.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a story about villages in Tursunzoda which are unable to receive frequencies that broadcast Tajik State Television, and only receive 4 to 5 Uzbek channels from Uzbekistan. Many villages used to be covered by a transmitter situated in Karatog, which was stolen in 1992.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a story about natural gas supplies in Kulab. Two years ago 140 families residing on Gagarin Street in Kulab collected money and connected their houses to the natural gas supply network. They were recently disconnected for unknown reasons. The authorities claim that the families owe money; other administrative organs claim that simply the gas supply is much less this year than in the previous year. The result is that the people along this street now are cutting down trees for firewood. The journalists tried to get a comment from the local administration, but administration officials declined to speak, claiming they were engaged in the preparations for celebration of the 2700 anniversary of the town of Kulab.

From *Nabzi Zindagi*, a story about the statue of the Tajik writer and poet Mirzo Tursunzoda. The statue of Mirzo Tursunzoda was raised in Regar in 2001 on the occasion of Tursunzoda's 90th birthday. However, many of the inhabitants of the city consider the statue to be unlike the writer – and are critical of it. The journalists questioned Muzaffar Azizov, head of the department for preservation of historical monuments at the Ministry of Culture, who responded that previously there had been a commission at the Ministry that issued approval for such projects, but that the commission has been defunct for several years, and that when the statue of Mirzo Tursunzoda was raised, it was sanctioned directly by the government. After the story was broadcast by TV



Poytakht, the head of the cultural department of the presidential administration, Ato Khujoev, called Internews producer Karim Azizov to express his dissatisfaction with the story. After a prolonged discussion with Azizov, Khujoev said that they would find those responsible, and he also admitted that there were many similar statues all around the republic. The story also resulted in an article in the newspaper Ruzi Nav which borrowed extensively from Internews' material.

From *Nabzi Zindagi* a story on how ten state servants had been given new apartments during Ramadan, while a woman, Savri Normatova, in another part of the town was evicted from her house with her children. The woman was accused for illegally having taken possession of her apartment in 1993. However, the head of the makhalla and her neighbor are testifying that the woman bought her apartment in 1990 and thus is legally entitled to it. Unfortunately for Normatova, she does today not have the proper documentation. Today, 13 years later, the mayor of the town wants to take her apartment and give it to his relative. Normatova has begun a court case, but no verdict has yet been delivered. Normatova is at present only supported by the women's centre in the town. This case is not the only of its kind in Kurghon-teppa. The authorities have evicted also other people from their apartment recently, claiming that they do not have the proper documents.

From *Nabzi Zindagi* a story about AIDS in the Khatlon province. According to a recently opened center for HIV prevention in Kulab, there are six persons suffering from AIDS in Kulab, all of them between 18 and 30 years old, and most of them drug addicts.

From *Zamon*, a report about mynah birds in Uzbekistan, an aggressive predator from India and Afghanistan, has become an incredible nuisance, responsible for a high percentage of damage to the nation's crops. This piece profiles not only the problem, but the proposed solution (shooting quotas) which has received mixed results from scientists.

From *Zamon*, a report about the government minimum wage, as well as what the government calculates as middle class salary, with a comparison to the money a family of five needs in order to survive.

From *Zamon*, a profile of an internationally award winning Uzbek cartoonist, who has managed to gain fame despite working on outdated Soviet equipment and with almost no funding. The piece contained a follow-up segment on how Uzbekistan does not have any published political cartoonists.

From *Zamon*, an in-depth report about earthquake preparedness in Uzbekistan, a country which lies on a seismic fault line. The piece documented how buildings are being built that fail to meet standards required to help them sustain the impact of tremors, despite the frequency of small earthquake tremors, plus predictions of a more destructive earthquake within the next 15 years. It also highlighted how older buildings as well absolutely fail to meet these codes and that the local population lacks basic information on how to respond if an earthquake were to occur.

From *Zamon* an in-depth report about how farmers this year yielded an unusually low income, despite bountiful crops. Factors contributing to this situation included lack of coordination and organization among farmers on planting quotas, border closing, bribery along trade routes and the high price of gasoline along transport routes compared to the prices they could get for selling their product abroad.

From *Zamon*, a profile of an Uzbek who converted to Christianity, left his profession as a doctor and became a minister.

From *Zamon*, a report about condominium ownership in Uzbekistan, which is a relatively new phenomenon there, and it has brought about more complaints and promises than actual results. This piece looked at how some associations collect fees but don't supply needed repair and maintenance. Other condominium associations struggle because condo owners don't pay their fees, which leaves associations unable to fulfill their mandate to care for the upkeep of the building. Further compounding the problem is the manner in which associations are created by government organizations.

From *Zamon*, about the rash of market closings in Ferghana City, after government officials decided that the markets weren't adequate or they wanted the markets to move to a newer, but more expensive marketplace. The result is that people are left without adequate places to shop.

From *Zamon*, in conjunction with International AIDS Awareness day, a piece about the prevalence of AIDS in Uzbekistan. A man who was HIV positive was profiled, who talked about how he is trying now to help those who already suffer from AIDS come to grips with the disease, find counseling and medical treatment, such is available in Uzbekistan.

#### *Sample reports from Open Asia*

Kazakhstan doesn't have a problem with the quantity of teachers; however, there is a problem with the quality of teaching and educational programs. Currently, Kazakhstan is trying to introduce a 12-year school system. The nuances and consequences of the introduction of this program are considered in a story from Astana.

A flow of illegal migrant workers from Uzbekistan is becoming a problem in Kazakhstan. Workers from Uzbekistan are being turned into slaves in Kazakhstan and the number of illegal immigrants is growing year by year. Is it possible that a humble and humiliating life in Kazakhstan is better than an independent, but hungry in their motherland? This issue is discussed in a joint story by Kazakh and Uzbek journalists.

In Kazakhstan, religion and business are becoming more closely tied. In Pavlodar, imams make money from burial sarcophaguses, and the tax inspectorate penalizes the Russian Orthodox Church for debts. The divide between material and spiritual matters are examined in a segment by Pavlodar journalists.

From Kazakhstan, a piece about the elections to Kazakhstani Maslikhats (lower house of parliament) and about multiple infringements at polling stations in the southern capital of Kazakhstan. Infringements were so subtle, that they nearly evaded the detection of election monitors.

From Kazakhstan, a piece about privatization coupons. Privatization coupons, which were distributed at the end of the communist period, have become an issue again in Kazakhstan as members of the Communist Party have launched a campaign to return these coupons to people, inspiring thousands of pensioners holding coupons to bring a suit against the government. However, their chances of winning such a case are miniscule – and people seem to be given false hopes by the Communist Party that make use of this issue to promote themselves.

From Kazakhstan, a story about the new rules for immigrants in Kazakhstan in which residence permits will cost new immigrants eight thousand dollars.

From Kazakhstan, a story about the epidemic of the Internet. People in Kazakhstan challenge their lonely realities by communicating Internet cafés. This is not only a phenomenon of the young, but of people of all ages – teenagers, senior citizens, and students can be found chatting on-line under various intriguing nicknames.

From Kazakhstan, about the revival of aitys, the traditional art of improvisational singing. However, with the revival of the tradition has come censorship into this ancient and free folk art. In singing competitions, akyns (singers of aitys) are told which themes they can and cannot sing about.

From Kyrgyzstan, a report about a newspaper manager who found an original way to independently finance his paper by breeding horses.

From Kyrgyzstan, a report about a recent decision of Kyrgyz authorities to install cash registers in all markets of the country as a way to collect money for the state budget. But for sellers at the market, this means additional expenses and they organized a strike to express their disapproval.

From Kyrgyzstan, a report about the problem of non payment for electricity. Authorities turn off power in entire neighborhoods, regardless of which residents have paid or not. This is creating tensions against authorities and between inhabitants themselves.

From Kyrgyzstan, an investigative report by a freelance journalist about the suspected disappearance of hundreds of bodies from Kyrgyzstan's prisons and hospitals. In six years several tones of bodies and body parts were sent to Europe. The corpses were sold without the consent of relatives to Kyrgyzstan's medical academy which passed them on to the German anatomist Dr Gunther von Hagens. There are indications that vast numbers of corpses and body parts ended up as museum exhibits in Europe.

From Kyrgyzstan, a report from Osh about the problem of young unmarried mothers who refuse to take their baby from the nursery. They fear poverty, parents' criticism and social judgments.

From Kyrgyzstan, a report about risks faced by diabetics in Kyrgyzstan today. The Ministry of Finance owes a lot of money to the American company providing insulin and the Ministry of Health has little insulin reserve. It is often using some of animal origin which Muslims don't want to take because of Muslim restrictions against the consumption of pork products. It remains unclear which state structure is responsible for the whole problem.

From Tajikistan, a story about 40-year-old Tajik citizen Hakim Otabaev, who was sentenced to death for killing his brother, nephew, and neighbour in a fight in a billiard hall. The story discusses different aspects of death penalty and how it is implemented in Tajikistan. Earlier this year death penalty legislation was revised, for example women cannot be sentenced to the death penalty, and of the original 15 paragraphs, only five remains, including terrorism and genocide. The story also discusses the reasons for keeping many of the issues surrounding the death penalty secret. Currently, relatives are not given the bodies after execution, nor are they told where the person is buried. Sometimes relatives are not always informed of the actual execution until months after it takes place.

From Tajikistan, a story about the return of corpses of Tajiks working abroad. Shavkat Rizoiev from Panjakent died while working as a laborer in Russia. In order to have his corpse transported back from Moscow, his sister had to pay \$2,000, equivalent to the wages of two years' work in Moscow. Last year 328 Tajik migrant laborers were brought back dead from Moscow. Of them,

78 were murdered, 118 died of diseases, and 126 of unknown reasons. Statistics indicate the number this year is likely to double.

From Tajikistan, a story about an association of entrepreneurs of the Panjshanbe bazaar in Khujand. The members of the association meet weekly to discuss issues entrepreneurs face, and to defend their rights. Of particular concern to the association members is how the authorities are profiting off entrepreneurs by the procedures for the issue of certificates and by demanding licenses for the import and selling of goods of both foreign and local origin.

From Tajikistan, a story about the mentally ill in Tajikistan and how cutbacks in the economy have led to a crisis in the sphere of mental health institutions. Patients are forced to leave the clinics, sometimes leading to tragedy such as the recent case of a patient released by a clinic who shortly thereafter killed his father.

From Tajikistan, on the opening of a school in Muminabad. The new school was opened in the recently founded village Lichak by a certain Mullo Fahridin. The story compares the number of recently opened schools with the number of recently opened mosques. In Muminabad there are currently 50 schools, but more than 100 mosques.

From Tajikistan, about the mined border between in eastern Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The inhabitants of the border areas frequently hear mine explosions. In November three young schoolchildren were grazing their cattle in the mined territories and as a result of an exploding mine, one died, and the other two were injured. The number of victims is increasing, despite the border not being officially delimited. These mines are located in Tajikistan, placed there by Uzbek soldiers. Though a center for mine clearance has opened in Tajikistan, and is located in the presidential administration, it will only begin its activities in early spring.

From Uzbekistan, a story about slave trade in Uzbekistan. Teenagers from provincial areas in Uzbekistan are trafficked to Kazakhstan. The teenagers are promised good jobs and salaries, but upon their arrival in Kazakhstan are turned into slaves. The piece profiles a boy from Samarkand who escaped from his owners and includes footage shot by our Kazakh colleagues in Kazakhstan.

From Uzbekistan, a story about a magazine for the blind in Uzbekistan. The situation for the blind in the Ferghana Valley grows worse and worse: it is almost impossible to find a job and government allowances are meager. Many blind are driven into begging. This piece profiles The Ferghana Society for the Blind, the largest in Uzbekistan, which publishes a magazine for the blind (circulation 270). Earlier it was published twice a month. Presently, it appears once every two months. The society has petitioned President Karimov asking for help, but their letter was never answered.

From Uzbekistan, how the makhalla – or self-regulatory residential institution in Uzbekistan violates its residents' rights. Human Rights Watch called on the Government of Uzbekistan to stop using the traditional communities – makhallas – as an instrument of police supervision and control. The main character of the story is a secretary of a makhalla committee who sued its chairman for beating her.

From Uzbekistan, in many yards in Samarkand, people find antiques and invite tourists and pilgrims to view the antiques for a small fee. Journalists working for *Open Asia* were contacted by a local resident who asked them to help to decipher the epitaph on a tomb. It turned out that the names on the tomb dated back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and belong to a well-known scientist, lawyer and imam.

From Uzbekistan, a story from Uzbekistan, about the smuggling of cotton. On Oct. 13, the Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers issued a “Decree on Additional Measures to Ensure the Safety of the 2003 Cotton Crop.” The decree was the Cabinet’s reaction to the increase in the number of cases of smuggled cotton to neighboring Central Asian states where prices are several times higher than in Uzbekistan. The piece profiled a woman convicted for smuggling cotton to neighboring Kyrgyzstan. It includes a sound bite from the Uzbek news program *Akhborot*, where this woman publicly apologizes for what she did.

From Uzbekistan, immigrants on the border. A story about immigrants from Turkmenistan who now live on the Uzbek border. They left their houses and other property in Turkmenistan. However, the Uzbek authorities failed to provide support to these people. The situation is deteriorating daily.

From Uzbekistan, a story about a very tall man living in Surkhandarya. Isroil Khushbakov, 23, is two meters forty centimeters. He eats five to six times a day and his daily diet is five kilograms of meat. He wants to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records thinking that they will start providing him with food and clothes, as the local impoverished conditions make the realization of his dream a near impossibility.

From Karakalpakstan, about how farmers are going bankrupt. Farmers in Karakalpakstan who grow melons and watermelons experienced millions of Uzbek soums in losses. A moth destroyed an area approximately 3.5 thousand hectares, which is 350 tons of melons and watermelons or 100 million Uzbek soums. Local authorities can do nothing until they receive orders from their superiors. The republic used to export up to 120-130 thousand tons of melons annually.

From Uzbekistan, about violations of students’ rights. Uzbekistan is a signatory to the UN Covenant on Children’s Rights. The Covenant prohibits all forms of child labor. However, Uzbekistan violates the Covenant on a regular basis by trucking thousands and thousands of children out to cotton fields to pick cotton. Conditions in the fields are unbearable; there is no adequate shelter, children often become ill. In the town of Andizhan, six high school students refused to pick cotton and were made to chop wood as punishment. Parents of one of the children want to sue.

From *Uzbekistan*, a story about Deputy Hokim Khojikulov from Denau. Khojikulov allegedly had beaten a school teacher in a cotton field in the Denau district. A local newspaper, *Chaganion*, published an article about the incident. However, no other newspaper dared to re-publish it. The Open Asia team investigated the incident, talked to witnesses and produced a piece.

From *Uzbekistan*, a story about Paul Yahn, businessman from Denmark robbed [by an Uzbek government structure] of 865,000 USD. The Uzbek government is not interested in developing private business; what it wants is foreign investments in government projects.

From *Uzbekistan*, a story about ethnic Korean brides for Koreans and about the emergence of a quasi-legal but very lucrative business of supplying Korean men with ethnic Korean brides in Uzbekistan. The mechanism is so sophisticated that, if you work through a “firm,” the process of meeting, falling in love and contracting a marriage need only take a week.